

MICEM/8/2001

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mrs. Ndioro Ndiaye

At the Eighty-second Session of the Council

27-29 November 2001

Geneva

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

1. This year, marking the 50th anniversary of IOM, is of two-fold significance to me in that it also signals the start of the transitional year of the mandate with which you have honoured me.
2. As Deputy Director General, I am both honoured and proud to address a Council that has been strengthened by the entry of new Member States and observers. I convey my thanks to you all for the confidence you have reposed, and I hope will continue to repose in us at a time when current and world affairs call for increased attention and action on our part.
3. My thanks go also to the entire Organization, in particular to the Director-General, Mr. Brunson McKinley, for the quality of the choices made and the work accomplished in a spirit of cooperation and international service.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4. Last year, my first in office, after reviewing accomplishments for the year 2000, that had just ended, I presented to you my programme for 2001, with particular reference to special matters and other activities. They have all recorded the progress expected and which they merited.

Gender issues

5. Outside IOM: of the eight projects announced, six have been completed. To that end, we created a structure to manage and run these projects, the Working Group on Gender Issues (WGGI). As pertains to the projects:
 - support for an information campaign on trafficking in human beings in the Philippines has been concluded;
 - the preparation of a handbook for the use of researchers and practitioners in matters pertaining to trafficking in migrants has been completed;
 - the production of a film to promote the return of Afghan female doctors who had fled to Pakistan has been somewhat delayed owing to filming problems. This project merits our full attention in the light of recent developments in that region;

- the provision of start-up funding for a project entitled "Health and Migration" for the benefit of migrant women in Europe was completed;
- the contribution to the cost of distributing a film on abandoned migrant children will be effected at the beginning of 2002;
- the information campaign targeting the employers of female domestic workers in Costa Rica has run its course;
- the training programme for Sudanese young people awaiting repatriation in a refugee camp in Kenya was completed;
- the updating and reprinting of the IOM publication on "Trafficking in Women from the Dominican Republic for Sexual Exploitation" was completed.

6. Amongst other activities, the WGGI took part in the Hargeisa Workshop in Somalia, is responsible for information dissemination (web site and newsletter) and a study on gender amongst the staff of IOM, and provides financial support for humanitarian assistance to Afghan women and children.

7. Within IOM: we note with satisfaction an overall 6.1 per cent increase in the number of women in the "Professional" category, although in contrast, a detailed analysis regrettably reveals a decline of approximately 12 per cent in numbers in the middle and higher levels (P3 to D). The overall increase is attributable to the strong growth of numbers in the UG to P2 grades, of some 12.9 per cent. In December 2000, women in IOM accounted for 28.1 per cent (71 persons), whilst in June 2001 the figure was 34.2 per cent (109 persons).

8. For 2001, we have participated in most international conferences on gender and, whenever appropriate, we gave a prominent place to this subject in our statements. I must also inform you that during many discussions and consultations with the authorities of countries visited and with international institutions, issues pertaining to migrant women have been one of our constant concerns, whether from the economic, social or health perspective, at the individual or family level.

International relations

9. Together with the United Nations system and other organizations (Human Rights, International Parliamentary Union, UNCTAD, European Union) IOM has participated in the major conferences, *inter alia*, in Durban, Brussels and Ouagadougou. In parallel with the major conferences, we carried out an extensive series of consultations and meetings with a view to concluding cooperation agreements with institutions, in particular with the World Bank, African Development Bank (ADB), Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) amongst others.

10. Also in the sphere of external relations, IOM has jointly staged international conferences either with States (in Uruguay, Gabon, Senegal) or with organizations (*la Francophonie* in particular).

11. Moreover, under the MIDA (Migration for the Development of Africa) Programme, which I shall be presenting to you later, a wide range of consultations and working meetings

are now under way with funding agencies, including the World Bank, ADB, IDB, European Union, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF), as well as with donor countries such as France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Now that concrete support is in place, the MIDA in this case, these talks are beginning to bear fruit both multilaterally and bilaterally.

12. Our contacts with associations of migrants in Europe, Africa and America will be situated in that international context. We have consented to participate in their seminars, colloquia and conferences with special honour and interest, and IOM feels duty-bound at this time to pay tribute to them for the role they are playing in the recognition of the diasporas and populations to which they belong. They will always occupy the place they deserve with us and, at the appropriate time, we will be able to ensure them their proper place in law and in fact.

The use of the French language

13. We believe that the entry of several French-speaking countries or organizations as Members or observers will make it possible to advance the use of French as a working language within IOM. The joint organization of international colloquia on migration flows in *la Francophonie* together with *Haut Conseil de la Francophonie* and our participation in conferences organized by the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF) are factors that strongly cement IOM's link with the French language.

Africa

14. In view of the work done and our special interest in this region, I should like to provide you with greater detail in that connection.

- This year, we will have received six African countries as Members, namely the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Madagascar and Cape Verde, as well as one regional organization, the Arab Maghreb Union (Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA)), representing five countries, as an observer. We are furthermore gratified that seven Headquarters or Cooperation Agreements will have been signed with the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Benin, Cape Verde and the Gambia.
- Our relations with African continental or regional bodies (OAU, UMA, ADB, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) in particular) have steadily grown stronger and negotiations are in progress for the conclusion of cooperation agreements and/or partnerships in some instances. After our participation in the Lusaka conference in July 2001 we had the honour to be received by President Chiluba of Zambia and be able to discuss four matters of paramount importance to Africa and migration in Africa. These were the freedom of movement of persons and goods, MIDA, reconstruction and development in post-conflict situations and AIDS.

15. Over the past year, the IOM has taken part in numerous conferences and meetings focused on Africa, and the countless bilateral or multilateral contacts that materialized on those occasions have paved the way for significant strides in the sphere of cooperation. I shall refer here only to contacts with the OAU, which were highly instrumental in launching the concept of the MIDA Programme and in making it one of the concerns of African States

through Decision CM/Dec.614 (LXXIV) adopted by the 74th Ordinary Meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers held in Lusaka, Zambia on 5 to 8 July 2001

16. Whilst our ongoing concerns include other projects such as AIDS/migration, regional processes, the training of professionals to manage migration or other problems, post-conflict reconstruction and the like, another meaningful subject has further enriched our action in Africa, namely the MIDA Programme. MIDA is a promising and fruitful programme that will be occupying us for many years to come and which therefore warrants a more detailed than usual presentation.

17. It is an ambitious programme to strengthen capacities by the voluntary mobilization of human and financial resources from diasporas for the development of their countries of origin.

- It should go some way towards meeting the requirements of qualified human resources of these countries, which must and are anxious to boost their technological capabilities in order to take control of their development;
- It entails offering qualified and specialized professionals the possibility to thrive in and develop their own countries, in an appropriate environment. It provides a place, so to speak, for expatriate elites or those in the process of emigrating. It is a check on the brain drain;
- It is reinforcing technical cooperation in that its strategy is based on appropriate training and the generation of expertise and jobs, and hence human resources for those countries most in need of them. It is therefore an exchange between sending and receiving countries;
- It also makes allowances for all institutional and regulatory adjustments that could ease mobility, the transfer and readmission of people and funds, both in sending and receiving countries, while respecting laws, persons and their goods. This entails continuous dialogue amongst all the stakeholders;
- This entire process fits into the framework of voluntarily managed and orderly migration in the sending, receiving and transit countries;
- This may therefore be done bilaterally or preferably at regional level, though always with the freely negotiated consent of all, countries and persons alike, with the utmost respect for the laws, interests and rights of each party.

18. MIDA is being implemented at two levels:

- At country level:
 - For sending countries: through the most exhaustive possible sector-by-sector assessment of specific needs in terms of professionals and specialists;
 - For sending, transit and receiving countries: by means of institutional and regulatory adaptations essential to the proper management of the process.

- In the diasporas:
 - For sending countries: through an evaluation of available skills effected by associations and corporate groups;
 - For sending, transit and receiving countries: through the choice of timeframes and forms of action desired.
19. For the diasporas, these forms of action fall into four categories:
- Partial and/or periodic transfer (mobility): creation of activities (enterprises, specialist firms, consultancies, start-ups and subsequent management from the receiving country, and regular or *ad hoc* visits;
 - Virtual activities by teleworking: enhancing the technological platforms of countries of origin, university and high school distance learning, health professions, transfer of technology, etc;
 - Raising of capital for the creation of enterprises in market niches for which there is demand, and their follow up;
 - Definitive return and creation of enterprises under partnership arrangements, co-development and job creation.
20. This programme spans the two-fold subject area of Migration/Development and Migration/Education, which is also one of our core concerns. It is this same two-fold subject area that recurs in the two major framework agreements recently concluded in Africa, namely the Cotonou Agreement signed between the European Union and the ACP countries, and the New African Initiative finally adopted at Lusaka by African Heads of State and of Government.
21. Concerning the other projects falling within the framework of the expanded area of activity of the Deputy Director General, we shall not be returning to the topic of migration and development, considering that the MIDA Programme can be adapted to any country by making allowances for the human, socio-economic and political specificities involved.
22. With regard to the budget, we have maintained our interest in the strengthening and funding of development activities, and in considering the most judicious way of effectively doing much more with a little more. The fund earmarked for supporting developing and transition Member States, which you have been good enough to renew, will enable us to carry out a series of actions to identify, prepare, evaluate, provide training for and launch priority projects in the areas most in need of them. In this way, we hope to respond to the numerous requests from countries that are becoming alive to the significance of migration and the potential roles of their diasporas once stability is restored.
23. To boost our action capabilities and our effectiveness in meeting the new challenges, we still believe that more room for manoeuvre in the utilization of the allotted contributions and surpluses will be the tool needed for undertaking the new tasks being demanded of us.

24. As envisaged, IOM has stepped up its educational activities. We have closely followed certain initiatives, jointly organized and participated in several national or regional conferences and seminars for training human resources to manage migration and migratory flows. Cases in point are MIDSAs in South Africa, the Mar del Plata Conference in Argentina, and Uruguay, amongst others.

25. As for the development and strengthening of contacts with partners (new, recent or old, countries, or national, regional or international organizations), we have multiplied these contacts, mostly bilateral though multilateral as well, throughout the world where migration issues arise. Accordingly, we have held (often repeated) talks with the authorities of several African, American, European and Asian countries. Many of these contacts have translated either into accessions or cooperation agreements, and all have afforded an opportunity to ventilate and understand the concerns of each one and reinforce the ties between us.

26. Foundations and associations, whether or not arising from diasporas, have also received special attention, since IOM has participated in a number of colloquia and seminars organized in Africa, the Americas and in Europe.

II. FUTURE WORK

27. I shall now turn to our projects for 2002, though before placing them in regional and sectoral perspective, allow me to outline our overview of long-term migration and our intention to play an active part.

28. As this 21st century gets under way, migration constitutes a core variable all across the world and we are all convinced that it will continue to be so for the decades to come.

29. Migration is already one of the concerns of countries and international organizations. The European Union and the ACP countries are addressing the matter officially and some countries have decided to speak openly about it.

30. It is our wish for IOM that all concerned, whether organizations, countries or peoples, may recognize migration and resolve to find realistic, fair and humane solutions to the problems posed by it. At the level of international or regional relations, migration must be approached in global terms and treated as a fact of life, and we would wish for its place to be recognized in all endeavours to manage human, political and socio-economic relations everywhere.

31. As for the goals set for the future, in addition to the new migration/development dynamic, we intend to consolidate what has been accomplished and adapt it to the realities, conditions and circumstances with which we will be confronted.

Gender issues

32. In addition to concluding the two unfinished projects, the following four new projects are envisaged:

- producing a radio programme on disaster relief and on migrant populations in Central America;

- producing brochures as part of information campaigns designed to awaken a new awareness of the dangers of trafficking in the female population groups in Ethiopia;
- a research project on the migration plans of women in the wake of the decommissioning of the Ignalina nuclear plant in Lithuania;
- the proposal to conduct a study on the situation of Africans within the African Union.

33. At the internal level, an effort must be made to correct the decline in the number of women in the P3 to D grades. Our anticipated increase in activities could form the framework in which to remedy this situation.

34. The place of women in migration must be reviewed and recognized. Of necessity, countless migrant women have become heads of families and have taken over the reins in managing the interests of their loved ones, acting as true managers and decision makers. At the other end of the spectrum, trafficking in women is flourishing. This must cease. We must tackle this more keenly and with increased resources so as to help the first group to organize themselves efficiently and to restore to the second the dignity they ought never to have lost. We will see to this.

35. Lastly, we intend to step up the role of IOM in organizing and participating in thematic conferences concerning migrant women in different spheres of activity or in public life.

French

36. Here again, we must consolidate our achievements and rally around French-speaking countries facing migration problems. I am thinking of those countries with large-scale pendular migration where entire regions are abandoned by the menfolk after harvests.

37. As pertains to relations with French-speaking countries, we intend to pursue joint activities through increased mutual consultations and indeed more studies in the framework of migration flows within the French-speaking world, for example, as regards migrants who are vectors of culture in the French-speaking realm, integration, harmonization of migration policies, economic and commercial exchanges within migration movements of French-speaking people, or even migration flows in French-speaking West Africa. This latter topic is in response to requests from several countries.

38. In terms of exchanges, a French-speaking cultural area should be created in a practical manner. Whilst such exchanges do in fact take place, it is no less true that many artists face enormous difficulties when it comes to travelling and transporting their materials and equipment from one place to another. These artists, indeed all artists in the French-speaking realm, should be accorded facilities in this connection. For example, a special form could be created for use in conjunction with visa applications, as suggested by the *Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie*, in which the IOM is actively involved.

International relations

39. We shall be forging ahead with consultations and negotiations leading to regional agreements. We further intend to enter into partnership agreements with other major organizations so that together we may rapidly and easily mount activities in which each party will have a place and a role.

40. We will also need to foster awareness on the part of the authorities of countries in certain regions as to the problems of migration and obtain their commitment to undertake large-scale actions and to sign the requisite regional agreements for their implementation and proper functioning.

41. In dealing with migration, we will give to associations of migrants and diasporas and to the private sector their rightful place, we will continue to heed and maintain close relations with them.

Africa

42. We will be making a series of approaches to those African countries that are facing migration problems and with which we can cooperate to improve knowledge and management of migration flows. I am thinking specifically of Niger, Chad, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau.

43. Another of our concerns is that of enhancing our knowledge of internal migration flows in West Africa. This will pave the way for the launch of regional consultations that should culminate in agreements on migration, mobility and transit.

44. We will also need to launch a specific and multifaceted action initially to slow down and where possible, eventually to reverse the brain drain that is hampering the development of one part of the world. The implementation of the MIDA Programme, which will enable us to tackle the strengthening of capacities on a large scale, is an integral part of that action.

45. In continuation of the training seminars on migration management and accompaniment already in progress in Latin America, South Africa and soon to be started in Dakar for West Africa, we intend to pursue the same type of action for Central Africa, East Africa and North Africa.

46. In parallel with major efforts to develop new programmes and to undergird those that already exist, we will be striving to win over as many countries and institutions as possible to our vision of international migration.