

**STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

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Ladies, gentlemen, distinguished delegates,

1. The IOM Council is always a privileged occasion for exchanges between Member States, and for dialogue with the Administration, and I am highly gratified by your presence here for the next three days and by the contacts that I will be able to have with you.
2. The Director-General has just outlined to you three issues of crucial importance to the future of the Organization. Naturally, I strongly endorse what has been said and will therefore not dwell on those issues. For my part, I would simply like to share with you some thoughts arising from my observations over the past year.
3. **I should like first of all to highlight a paradox:** Even though migration is central to the concerns of many countries, only exceptionally does it form a specific agenda item at international discussions on globalization and its impacts. It seems to me that the duty of IOM is to strive to secure the broadest possible acceptance of the idea that well-managed migration can be beneficial to the international community and that migration cannot be approached only from the perspective of the problems that it entails.
4. Indeed, it is clear that **movements of human beings are a basic fact of our globalized world** and should be the subject of discussions based on common interest. The developed countries cannot be attracting qualified migrants to their territories and to the economic sectors with shortfalls without being fully aware of the problems being generated by these departures for developing countries. On the other hand, the countries affected by this exodus have not always taken the domestic measures needed for genuine development. In 1968 the United Nations was already drawing the international community's attention to the need to consider both aspects of the problem, though one has the feeling that no real progress has been made since then.
5. The Monterrey Consensus, although strongly focused on the means whereby development aid can be rendered more effective, makes no mention of migration, although **financial transfers from migrants** to their country of origin represent considerable sums – in excess of public aid in some cases. Making use of such remittances under arrangements that provide incentives and security could be a powerful driver of development, in conjunction with foreign direct investment and the support of foreign sources of funding. This is the message that we conveyed to participants at the Conference, as well as in all bilateral talks held on that occasion.

6. Shortly thereafter, at the Annual World Bank Conference on the Economics of Development and in the ECOSOC framework, IOM clearly promoted the idea that **migration cannot be sidelined when analysing the economic performance of various countries, or social development**. This message was shared not only with the representatives of member countries of these two bodies, but also with other international organizations, and I shall revert to this subject in connection with partnerships that IOM could develop.

7. This **institutional line of action** was pursued at the last Summit of Heads of State and of Government of ACP States at Nadi, Fiji. In four paragraphs that had been the subject of arduous discussions, the Final Declaration mentions the concerns of all these countries over the measures being taken by most developed countries, in particular countries of the European Union with regard to migration. It was the first time that these matters were being so clearly addressed at this level, in close connection with capacity-building issues and the need for specific support to the social sectors.

8. Lastly, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, IOM put forward its understanding of the linkages between migration and sustainable development by recalling the need for an endogenous approach that would mobilize the national community in each country, including the members of the diaspora, though preserving their dual status.

9. Once again, I would like to underscore the need to consider such linkages, as **migration issues are cross-cutting and universal**. This is undoubtedly one of the reasons for the questioning mentioned by the Director-General. Despite the initial difficulties, gender-related, and on another plane, environmental issues, have gradually placed their imprint on all development cooperation approaches, and now receive special attention in operational programmes. This should be thrust of our joint endeavours, so that migration can be taken into account in a systematic and coordinated manner.

10. **A balanced approach must be simultaneously vigilant and humane**, and must embody all the complex parameters of migration movements.

11. This brings me to the second point I wished to raise before you, which is that **human capital flows are having a considerable impact on development prospects**. Most countries believe that the enhanced management of these flows is indispensable to improved macro-economic performances at the various levels, namely the national, regional and international levels. It is common knowledge that the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America are suffering more from the consequences of human capital flows than the industrialized countries.

12. Our common challenge is to find a holistic and comprehensive method of human resource management. **What should be done to ensure better retention of qualified professionals in their own countries?**

13. What should be done to ensure that countries of origin and host countries alike benefit from the skills of qualified professionals in the diasporas, both quantitatively and qualitatively?

14. How can the diasporas be more closely involved in developing their countries?

15. Undoubtedly by improving wage systems, conditions of work and the applicable regulations, while recognizing the role and the specific contribution of qualified professionals as players in social and economic development.

16. More efficient international cooperation calls for capital movements from industrialized countries toward developing countries. It is imperative to strike **a balance between the demand for human capital flows** from Africa, Asia and Latin America toward the rich countries, **and foreign direct investment**.

17. Qualified migrants are indeed in a position to support the development of their country of origin by **transferring their skills** (using formulas that do not entail renunciation of their acquired rights), and it would be paradoxical for developed countries not to participate in programmes of this kind. After all, **the imbalance between the wage and social conditions that they are able to offer to the elites, and the reality in developing and transition countries is the primary cause of migration movements involving these categories of persons**.

18. This imbalance is the main factor underlying the brain drain, and as I just said, one cannot simultaneously hold the developing countries to account for their problems of economic takeoff and bad governance, while consciously luring away their best human resources by means of statutory and financial incentives.

19. With the support of development agencies, greater impetus should be given to national and regional poverty reduction and conflict prevention strategies so as to offer real incentives to qualified professionals from Africa, Asia and Latin America to return and become integrated in their country of origin just after completing their studies in industrialized countries. Such measures would be conducive to macro-economic stability and the reduction of investment-related risks thanks to improved economic management.

20. Up to now, **the tendency has been to divorce human capital from global trends in resource flows**. Regrettably, the general discussion is focused on capital flight rather than flows of human capital from non-industrial to industrial countries, and this is surely where IOM has a key role to play in terms of disseminating information and promoting discussions with the entities concerned.

21. This brings me to the third aspect of my statement, namely **partnerships** with all the entities concerned by this problem. Of course, IOM is already working in close conjunction with some natural partners in the field. Although I cannot name them all, I would nevertheless like to mention the United Nations, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the International Labour Office, with which we hold regular consultations, as the Director-General has informed you.

22. The work of many NGOs also commands respect and we must certainly continue and step up the cooperation that we have started with many representatives of civil society, based on respect for our respective identities. As an intergovernmental organization, we must ensure that our action reflects the main lines laid down by our Council, but we have everything to gain by instituting a facility for regular coordination with the NGOs active in this sector.

23. That would make for information sharing as well as the settlement of any differences by means of dialogue. In effect, we would like to avoid the reoccurrence of recent acts of vandalism carried out against some of our offices by groups which prefer other modes of action. This aspect of our strategy of opening up to the outside seems to me to be very important for the months ahead.

24. We have also developed the regional dialogues, whose importance emerges clearly in the regulation of information and the sharing of practices, though utilizing existing structures.

25. I shall not be going into these processes again, except to point out the desirability of having a non-binding forum for coordination when a region is hit by a serious crisis, as is the case in West Africa today. The possibility for dialogue does exist, proof of which is the participation of high-level experts from all the countries of the Economic Community of West African States in the first jointly organized IOM/ECOWAS workshop.

26. This regional-level action is very important, and we are striving to enhance this component in all our initiatives and programmes. Accordingly, among other things, a framework agreement is now ready for signature with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and with the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD).

27. The existence of these instruments broadens our scope for action and lends credibility to our initiatives, especially in those regions where we are still not very well known, except through our “historical” activities. This means above all being consistent with ourselves and, in fulfilling our mandate, striving towards the greatest possible degree of adherence to the main guidelines set by our Member States, in which concerted action and the sharing of information and practices are constants.

28. We also need to work with credible technical partners and **to incorporate our thinking into more global action plans**. This is the primary justification, for example, of our partnership with the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) or with the Development Research Institute (DRI), which provide us with their expertise under joint projects. We also wish to play our part in continental processes such as NEPAD or regional ones such as MERCOSUR and ASEAN, mindful of the significance of migration flows in the economies of Latin America, Asia or Africa.

29. Personally, I am a strong believer in the **pooling of skills and respect for the terms of reference of each player**. Accordingly, the Ministers of Health meeting in Harare have just entrusted WHO and IOM with devising and making available to them the most precise possible census of qualified health personnel practicing either in another country in the region or in a developed country. WHO is obviously responsible for steering this task, whose final outcome is clearly intended to foster better public-health policy performances in this region, while IOM contributes its expertise in approaching the diaspora and gathering this type of data amongst the migrants concerned.

30. The more efficient and better known these partnerships – of which I have cited only a few examples – the greater will be IOM’s gain in credibility with regard to its policy of rational diversification launched some years ago.

31. I shall end by recalling the absolute necessity of collaboration and dialogue at all times with our Member States, whether about institutional matters such as the future of the organization, or more operational ones such as devising programmes for intervention in our spheres of competence.

32. **Only the appropriate adaptation by national political authorities and the technical or administrative bodies concerned can guarantee the satisfactory implementation of the various projects.** There have been instances in the past when insufficient information exchange has led to misunderstanding. This has been the case in particular when budgetary constraints arising from insufficient or tardy funding have made it necessary to contemplate measures as extreme as suspending activities or even closing a national office.

33. The recent discussion in the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance (SCBF) was ample proof of the difficulties bound up with budget decisions and the “project-oriented” nature of most field posts makes such adjustments inevitable in certain circumstances. My profound conviction is that the closure of an office, even if due to financial constraints, holds implications that far outstrip such constraints and I would urge that **holding solutions** be examined in conjunction with the country concerned in order to avoid such an extreme, which is always damaging to future cooperation.

34. It is obviously much easier to mobilize funding from the international community in emergency situations than for supporting a long-term development process, given both the recurrent financial outlays and the time lag needed in order to gauge impact. This is the true merit of the team working on the “migration and development” aspect of IOM activities and whose efforts I take this opportunity to commend.

35. IOM has resolutely embarked on the path of **strengthening its advisory and expertise capabilities vis-à-vis member States**, and I believe that it is important to show our determination to stand by the developing and transition countries.

36. **The continuation of the 1035 Facility is in accordance with this**, and I am gratified by the attention that it is receiving from most of you. I am convinced that we will be proceeding as you would wish by involving the countries concerned even more closely from the outset in determining the projects selected as well as in the process of ratifying them. I would further like to suggest that we also look at the currently existing funding limits, which I believe are undoubtedly too restrictive in relation to the priorities of States.

37. This whole question will be examined at the time of the evaluation scheduled for 2003 after two years of implementation and on the principle of which we have agreed at previous meetings.

38. Given the solidarity demonstrated on a daily basis by the existence of this Facility, I feel compelled to recall the **need** for our Member States to pay their assigned contributions, which also constitute a key element of it. Within the framework of this binding obligation however, we must endeavour to find solutions best suited to the situation of countries that have fallen behind in their payments.

39. The concern with the sound management of the organization is not incompatible with a responsible examination of the possible options, and should not lead to a situation in which accession becomes tied to economic prosperity, at the risk of considerably limiting the universal mission of IOM.

40. I should like to conclude by underscoring just how much it means to me to work alongside the Director-General and with the various departments of IOM in furthering the cause of this organization and in enhancing its international credibility in its fields of endeavor. Undoubtedly, we still have some way to go, especially in the sphere of external communication, but we are also working on this together with you.