

**MICEM/8/2003**

**STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**Ms. Ndioro Ndiaye**

**at the Eighty-sixth Session of the Council**

**18-21 November 2003**

**Geneva**

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### **STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Ministers, Ambassadors, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

1. We see your presence at this session of our Council, and the active and discerning participation of delegations in the various informal consultations in the preparatory phase, as a clear demonstration of your interest in the process launched under the leadership of the Director General two years ago.
2. This reinforces us in our endeavour to facilitate the discussion on worldwide migration flows and to provide Member States with the services they expect of us under our mandate. I should therefore like to begin by thanking you for this token of confidence.
3. Naturally I shall not be going over the points just discussed by the Director General regarding initiatives by certain countries, regions or organizations or priority projects. I endorse all that he has said.
4. I would also like to indicate here that the complementarity of our team makes it possible first and foremost to tackle the issues in a spirit of coordination and to take account of the complex realities of migration in the various regions of world.
5. I would simply like to draw your attention to some matters that seem crucial to me.
6. In recent months, several Ambassadors have had occasion to remind us that IOM "is at a crossroads". I think they are absolutely right.
7. **The Organization has indeed seen exceptional growth** of almost 50 per cent over the past five years, as membership increased from 67 in 1998 to 102 today. A look at the geographical distribution of the new Members will show that all continents are represented, and the main lines of potential development for the future have just been described.
8. These accessions strengthen IOM in the international arena and enhance the perception of its role by all partners. Owing to the cross-cutting nature of migration issues, several international organizations or agencies are taking an interest in them for varying reasons and to differing degrees. IOM is nevertheless the most obvious "focal point", and its expansion has done much to change the way it is perceived by the international community.
9. The critical mass now attained is enabling IOM to make its voice better heard, but should not, however, inhibit its effectiveness and its capacity for targeted responses to the main challenges arising in a changing world. We shall continue to see to this.

10. These are largely positive dynamics, but they mean that IOM **must be particularly vigilant in managing its resources**, as the ongoing discussions clearly show us. I should like to take a moment to discuss the matter of outstanding contributions.

11. It is the countries themselves that state their wish to join IOM or express an interest in its activities. At the political level and at that of the technical structures concerned, we make clear to them the legal implications, as well as the recurring financial commitments entailed, giving them a breakdown of the amount and the way it is computed.

12. For the current year, we note that the rate of collection of assessed contributions is still appreciable. However, we have also observed a trend towards an increase in the number of countries failing to meet their commitments.

13. This year, the efforts of IOM – be it the actions carried out by the Director General, by me or by the Administration – have combined with those of Member States under the aegis of the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance. I take this opportunity to commend the work of the group, which has now tabled an initial progress report.

14. The outcomes of these cross-cutting initiatives are indeed encouraging, whether in terms of boosting awareness in the capitals or in strictly financial terms, since several countries from different groups have made payments or agreed on long-term payment plans.

15. This is why it is useful for this dialogue to continue in the spirit of coordination that has prevailed so far. The necessary appeal to the responsibility of all the Member States goes hand-in-hand with the quest for solutions on a case-by-case basis.

16. Each Member State must of course be constantly sensitized to the fact that paying its contributions is a primordial obligation of solidarity.

17. Yet to my mind, any move to institute sanctions at this stage in respect of access to projects or eligibility to certain instruments implies a considerable risk at a time when we are witnessing positive evolutions that should be further encouraged.

Distinguished delegates,

18. I would now like to underscore the fact that the efforts of the international community in all the agencies have this year focused largely on **following up the major decisions taken under action plans to attain the millennium goals, and on the means of financing development**, in continuation of the Monterrey Conference.

19. Globalization has triggered many discussions on the movement of goods and capital. Last week's joint workshop, to which the Director General referred, was an opportunity to examine in depth the implications of Mode 4 for temporary migration to provide services, jointly with the partners concerned, in particular the OECD and the World Bank.

20. I believe that IOM must play its full part in this discussion, but must also better communicate its potential role in realizing the millennium goals. There are indeed many points of convergence, and I shall limit myself to mentioning some that have represented core areas this year.

21. Beginning with the first objective, which concerns **poverty eradication and a better distribution of wealth**, it may be said that the skills of migrants are instrumental in building the capacities of low-income countries and can contribute endogenously to better governance. Money remittances by migrants are also an effective tool in the fight against poverty, provided that their use for income and employment-generating projects is improved.
22. Moreover, unlike public development aid – which has been declining over the past decade – or foreign direct investment, which is often uncertain, these remittances are increasing steadily. They concern almost all developing and transition countries, which is not the case for most other potential sources of development funding.
23. We must nevertheless ensure that endeavours to make better use of migrants' savings on the basis of solidarity do not replace commitments made by development partners in regard to public assistance.
24. This also applies to **private sector development and productive work for young people** (goals 1 and 8). The possibilities of associating migrants with investments or the creation of enterprises in their country of origin or of residence reduce the risks of failure and establish links and networks beneficial to economic activity and to university research.
25. Most migrants from low-income countries work in the private sector in developed countries, and greater advantage could be derived from their entrepreneurial skills through tax and customs incentives as well as some amendments to the regulations governing the movement of people.
26. Various initiatives have been taken in this field by some countries in Latin America and Asia and could serve as models.
27. As pertains to **enhancing the role of women in development** (goal 3), there has been a very marked feminization of migration flows in recent years, as well as an increasingly obvious trend towards independent migration by women, no longer under family reunification schemes as in the past.
28. Migrants are contributing meaningfully to the economic development of their two areas of reference and can be true agents of change and evolution for country of residence and of origin alike.
29. For us, this raises, *inter alia*, the necessary concern for the harmonious integration of these women into the host societies, in such a way that they can be protected against all the forms of abuse they face, and are granted access to the job market.
30. By way of example, I shall cite the EQUAL projects funded by the European Social Fund, and which, in the countries of execution, constitute important signals to which IOM is contributing its technical expertise.
31. I would now like to turn to **the progressive escalation of migration issues in international agendas, such as in regional and transcontinental dialogues, to which we are endeavouring to contribute.**

32. From recent discussions I was able to hold with some Caribbean countries such as the Dominican Republic and Haiti as well as with CARICOM, I was able to detect a very strong interest in a better understanding of the impact of migration flows on the region and on the main countries or regions of destination.

33. The reinforced dialogue between the ACP countries and the European Union now fully includes migration flows, as shown by the Nadi Declaration, and sets the tone for a responsible partnership in which respect for the rights of migrants plays an important part. The ongoing analysis of Articles 13, 79 and 80 of the Cotonou Agreement regarding the coordinated management of migration flows is oriented along these lines.

34. Both amongst themselves and with their American or European partners, the countries of Asia are drawing up discussion frameworks for addressing such crucial issues as migration for work, the fight against human trafficking or the impact of migration on development.

35. Latin America has opted to address its relationships with all its partners both by concluding bilateral agreements and seeking, together with other regions or continents, methods of dealing with the implications of globalization.

36. The brand new constitution of the African Union clearly mentions migration and emphasizes its potential contribution to the continent's development. At this very moment the Commission is drawing up the main lines of its action in this field, and IOM has been consulted.

37. It will therefore be by joint endeavour that we will find appropriate responses to all these challenges, which have grown more acute over the past two years. We share with other organizations a special responsibility in promoting the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which since taking effect this year has provided a suitable legal framework in a fast-changing world environment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

38. I shall conclude by confirming our determination **to reinforce or forge alliances and partnerships** with the other bilateral and multilateral players in the realm of migration, while respecting the mandates of each one.

39. To bear this out, let me first mention that, together with the United Nations Development Programme, we have drawn up a project linking migration and development, this being a domain which is particularly important for me. We are also engaged in a long-term study with WHO, the partial findings of which were tabled this year. The project is designed to provide the countries of origin with better knowledge of the health sector skills that have emigrated and to encourage their mobilization.

40. We will of course have a strong presence at the ILO General Conference in 2004, the theme of which is directly linked to the activities we are carrying out. We will endeavour on that occasion to make our complementarities better known.

41. The notions of responsible partnership, solidarity and fulfilment of commitments seem to me to be particularly important for the future.

42. During this crucial stage, we must both safeguard our accomplishments and the qualities for which we are recognized and prepare to make clear the place that IOM can and must occupy in a context of in-depth international analysis of migration.

43. Several forums have recently been created or expanded, such as the Geneva Migration Group or the Global Commission. The latter addresses, amongst other things, the interest of the Secretary General of the United Nations in having an independent and consolidated approach to migration questions. Various speakers will no doubt be dealing with this shortly.

44. We are truly facing shared challenges for the future and we will be unable to meet them without engaging in dialogue that necessarily respects all sensitivities.

I thank you.