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STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

Ms. Ndioro Ndiaye

at the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council

30 November – 3 December 2004

Geneva

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Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished delegates,

1. I am particularly happy to meet our Member States and observers (governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations) on the occasion of this Council, which is focusing its attention on the added value we can all derive from an integrated and reasoned management of migratory dynamics in a globalized world.
2. I should like to extend a particularly warm welcome to the countries that have just joined us and whose arrival among us reflects both our constant growth and the geographical diversity that constitutes our wealth.
3. I shall not dwell on the issues which the Director General has just addressed, since we share the responsibility of managing your Organization and do our best to ensure that our efforts are complementary, in terms of both geographical areas and sectors.
4. I would, however, like to say a few words about two or three aspects which confirm the key guidelines of my first mandate.
5. In the first place, how can we **strengthen existing cooperation with our Member States and observers and with bilateral and multilateral actors in charge of migration, within the limits of our mandate and making sure that our programmes are contained within the framework established in that mandate?**
6. I shall continue to hold a series of informal meetings with all the parties concerned in order to discuss questions of common interest, including institutional aspects related to the inclusion of migration on international agendas, both within and outside the United Nations system.
7. Furthermore, I feel it is also important, in consultation with the Regional Advisers and Heads of Mission, as well as with the Permanent Missions, to select the most successful projects which could then be presented and shared within the framework of our statutory and informal meetings, with the double aim of exchanging best practices and transferring skills between different regions, especially in Latin America, the Caribbean and in Asia.
8. This exchange goal also underlies our work at regional and continental level. Structures such as CARICOM and ASEAN, to mention only two examples, could benefit from experience acquired elsewhere in order to define a strategic framework for the integrated management of migration, in the formulation of which IOM is prepared to contribute its assistance as and when needed.

9. In addition, I shall continue **the action we have begun, within our fields of competence, to render more visible the impact of migration on the Millennium Objectives.** IOM is currently working on a document which is intended to provide an analytic insight to these connections, which tend to be unfamiliar owing to the cross-cutting nature of migration.

10. In the Field, this means for IOM implementing **projects related to poverty reduction strategies**, in which the skills of migrants (through their contribution to capacity-building in their home countries) and their financial resources (directed at job-creating public and private investments) will be deployed in innovating and active ways. At the same time, **this action on the underlying causes of population movements will have an impact on the retention of skills and on a joint approach to the opportunities of regular migration.**

11. This subject is of particular interest to me, and the MIDA programme provides a practical illustration in the Field.

12. It is in this spirit that I am keeping up my contacts with various groups, especially the Least Advanced Countries (LAC), the Group of 77 and the Africa/Caribbean/Pacific (ACP) Group. At the last Summit of Heads of State and Government, the ACP inserted a series of articles in the final declaration concerning the management of migration, which express the need for enhanced dialogue and responsible partnership with the countries of the European Union.

13. The results achieved within the framework of MIDA projects in the region of the Great Lakes, in Ghana and in Ethiopia bear witness to the added value of this type of project, which demonstrates what can be done by appealing to the diaspora for the temporary loan of its skills to the development of the home countries.

14. Other projects are currently being either prepared or implemented in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia. Examples include the application of migrant fund transfers in Guatemala for social housing projects, the contribution of Haitian diasporas to the development process, and the consideration given to ways of improving facilities for the transfer of funds to Viet Nam.

15. The MIDA concept is clearly evolving; its successes and difficulties are well known and are regularly assessed, both internally and externally. Once the start-up scepticism has passed, the results are undeniable: this innovating concept challenges all those intent on strengthening the capacities of countries of origin to combat poverty and ignorance and to impact the methods of political and economic governance of southern countries.

16. One may then have reason to wonder at the avoidance strategies and internal obstacles which have so often been observed, even though all IOM's technical departments are currently implementing one or more MIDA features in their regular projects.

17. This dilatory attitude is all the more surprising in that the legitimacy of the programme is clearly demonstrated by the support of the beneficiary States, which have expressed their views in this very venue on many occasions. I would like to confirm here that our strategy rests on the wish to help our Member countries to manage their relations with their migrants better and, in the longer term, to convince the latter to stay in their countries of origin.

18. I had also proposed **measures likely to guarantee the durable integration of migration issues in the development policies implemented by States.**

19. With this in mind, all the contacts with regional bodies have led or will soon lead to the signing of Cooperation Agreements.

20. Recently, the Ministers of the Interior and Security of the 21 CENSAD member countries meeting in Cotonou expressed a common concern for maintaining border security and introducing a modern and reliable system of travel documents.

21. IOM's answer could be to organize a series of technical workshops, since most CENSAD member States are also Members of IOM.

22. Where CARICOM is concerned, the contacts I established on my last mission to the Caribbean have helped to strengthen links with the Secretariat and to make progress towards the definition of common priorities. These meetings are supplemented by meetings with the ambassadors of Member countries, like the one I held in Washington last September. Thanks to the combination of regional efforts and bilateral contacts, all the issues arising in countries of the region can be tackled within different but complementary frameworks.

23. **Another important focus of our work is improving the integration of migrants in host societies, by making best use in particular of the capacities of migrant women as agents of change.**

24. **Their driving role in the establishment of peaceful social relations in developed countries and in their countries of origin must be further strengthened and encouraged.**

25. One possible approach would be to start from the experience gathered with the EQUAL projects financed by the European Social Fund, for which IOM has acted as operator and coordinator of the efforts made by many partners often from civil society, as in Italy or Portugal.

26. On the basis of the lessons learned so far, we could propose a **programme which would involve labour ministries, employers' representatives and the ministries in charge of women's affairs, not forgetting the social partners, as part of an overall approach to integration** (access to employment, non-discrimination, campaigns to enhance the image of migrants, cultural guidance, action against female genital mutilation, etc.).

27. We have published several documents analysing the role of women in reconstruction and development processes, based on contributions received in the course of training sessions in the Field. We shall ensure that these publications are distributed to potential partners, so that they can study the cost-effective impact of projects of this kind, which are well suited to the requirements of a number of countries experiencing a post-crisis situation.

28. IOM is also involved in the preparation of Beijing + 10 and, in regions where this has been possible, we have taken part in regional meetings, in order to ensure that the specific problems of vulnerable migrant populations appear in the Final Declaration. It is essential in this respect to cooperate with all the institutional players (UNIFEM, DAW, INSTRAW) and I have been paying

particular attention to coordinating efforts, particularly through the Working Group on Gender Issues of which I am in charge within the Organization and which is very active in terms of study and output.

29. In order to arrive at an overall approach to the notion of integration, we need to analyse the situation that prevails in areas that have **a large number of regular migrants originating from neighbouring countries** who are attracted by the prospect of better wages: **there are very few projects aimed at integrating these migrants in developing areas**, even though the problem arises there in an acute form and may be expected to persist for the medium if not longer term.

30. A real effort must be made to help countries hosting migrants to succeed with their integration policies, because this is a problem that arises everywhere, including in western countries, whose experienced high-level personnel leave for countries which are more attractive in terms of working conditions and salaries, and who are themselves replaced by the nationals of developing countries, where material conditions are much less attractive.

31. In addition to these projects, I shall continue to be involved with the management of the Organization, because it is undergoing considerable changes and needs to be run in a more collective spirit, with greater transparency and fairness against a setting where we need to balance growth with budgetary constraints.

32. Lastly, with regard to the process of informal consultations with Member States and the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance (SCBF), I should like to repeat very briefly, without going into further detail, that we are endeavouring, with your active support, to find a lasting solution to the problem of outstanding assessed contributions, which are weighing on our possibilities of taking action at a time when we need them in order to find the best response to your legitimate expectations.

33. I hope we shall succeed in solving this question thanks to the excellent cooperation between the SCBF Bureau and the Administration, which has already led to significant progress even though much still remains to be done.

34. Lastly, the Staff Association has expressed a number of concerns, to which we have paid due attention. We shall do our best to pursue and further extend the existing dialogue, in order to facilitate the circulation of information and to come up with the best response possible. The Director of Management Coordination will play a particularly key role in this respect.

35. I hope that the Council proves an excellent opportunity for exchanges in a venue which is the ideal place to hold a comprehensive and coherent debate on migration issues.

Thank you very much.