

MICEM/6/2006

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REMARKS

Mr. Brunson McKinley

at the Ninety-second Session of the Council

28 November – 1 December 2006

Geneva

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Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

1. This has been a year in which migration took on even greater prominence as a subject of international and multilateral policy, focusing attention on IOM's issues and activities.
2. IOM continued to grow, attaining the significant level of 120 Member States.
3. The High-Level Dialogue in September marked the rebirth of attention to the links between migration and development.
4. IOM and partner agencies developed a proposal – IMDI – that could serve to give practical effect to a number of M & D issues on which broad consensus was evident at the HLD.
5. The expansion of the Geneva Migration Group represented a significant improvement in interagency coordination on migration.
6. Regional migration fora continued active and inter-regional contacts multiplied, the Ibero-American Summit on Migration and the Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development being but two examples. MIDSA, the Southern Africa process, this year established links with Puebla, Bali and the Western Mediterranean Five Plus Five and will work next year with the Colombo Process.
7. IOM reacted promptly to the Lebanon emergency, evacuating 13,000 stranded foreign workers.
8. The decision was taken to establish a second administrative centre in Panama.
9. We opened a liaison office in Beijing and look forward to interesting programme work in China.
10. Real progress is within reach on IOM's Strategy, to provide vision, direction and guidance for the Organization at a time of profound change in global consideration and governance of migration.

11. Looking ahead, significant challenges present themselves. We shall need next year to
- Complete ongoing codification of personnel policy, including rotation, staff development and tenure policies;
 - Review our system of regional missions and other offices paid for out of the Administrative Part of the Budget;
 - Work to translate the positive momentum of the HLD into concrete results that realize the development potential of migration, together with interested Governments and partner agencies; and
 - Undertake a dialogue with the new Secretary General regarding the UN-IOM relationship.