

IOM Council, 92nd Session
November 28 – December 1, 2006

UNITED STATES DELEGATION STATEMENT

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Colleagues:

Let me first welcome Ambassador Al-Hajjaji of Libya and congratulate her on her election as Council Chair. We would also like to extend our welcome and congratulations to the other elected officials, to new Members the Republic of Montenegro and Nepal, and to new Observer Qatar Charity.

Thank you, Director General McKinley and Deputy Director General Ndiaye, for your earlier remarks. They clearly represent the achievements of IOM over the past year and the future opportunities and challenges the Organization faces going forward, particularly in a world where migration is becoming increasingly complex and receiving greater international attention.

The United States strongly supports this year's Council theme of 'Partnerships in Migration.' The field of international migration is dynamic, and it requires strong and productive partnerships to harness successfully its benefits and address its challenges. We urge the IOM Administration to continue its good work in strengthening the Organization's migration partnerships.

Each of us is assembled here today because of a key partnership, our partnership with IOM. As such, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize IOM for the work it has done and continues to do in assisting my Government to advance our goal of promoting safe, lawful and orderly migration and providing protection to vulnerable populations.

Yesterday, my Government was privileged to participate in the launch of IOM counter-trafficking training modules. The United States funded the development of the modules because we believe they will be an invaluable tool for governments, international organizations, service providers, and others, in the global fight against trafficking in persons. We continue to value our partnership with IOM in the counter-trafficking arena and rely heavily on the Organization's extensive expertise and experience to implement the programs that we think will achieve some of our counter-trafficking goals – including capacity building, technical support and victim assistance.

Without a doubt, IOM faces challenges in the years ahead as it responds to the ever-increasing complexity of migratory movements and attendant international policy issues. Enhanced organizational and operational effectiveness will be needed to prepare the Organization to respond to future challenges while controlling its remarkable expansion in

both membership and programs. Managed, responsible growth must be the goal of the Organization. Close partnership with IOM and among Member States is essential to exercising appropriate oversight and ensuring that IOM's central management and administrative control systems are commensurate with the Organization's responsibilities.

First and foremost, partnership between IOM and Member States is needed to finalize IOM's five-year strategy as soon as practicable. For the United States, IOM remains the leader on migration issues. We call on the Administration and Member States to make completion of IOM's strategy a top short-term priority.

Partnership is also needed for effective management of IOM's growth. The United States recognizes the Administration's efforts to contain costs and increase operational productivity and efficiency through decentralization, delocalization, and implementation of tighter internal financial controls. We are pleased that IOM is developing a new financial system to further improve quality control and accountability and enhance Organizational transparency. We urge IOM to continue to exercise fiscal discipline and consult closely with Member States on all budget and delocalization exercises so that informed decisions may be made regarding management issues. The United States is closely following the creation of

the Panama Administrative Center and notes the Administration's assurances that appropriate staffing and resources will be maintained in Central America to preserve regional program effectiveness and capacities.

Fiscal discipline is not the sole responsibility of IOM, however. Member States play a prominent role in contributing to the financial health of the Organization and in enhancing its good governance. It is the responsibility of all States to take their membership seriously and fulfill their financial obligations to IOM. We are keenly aware of the impact that outstanding contributions have on the Organization's ability to function effectively. We commend and support the IOM Administration's efforts to encourage Member States with outstanding contributions to settle their arrears promptly, and urge Member States subject to Article 4 provisions to negotiate repayment plans as a measure of good faith in partnership with the Organization and fellow Members. We also call upon our fellow Member States who have not done so to ratify IOM's Constitutional Amendments. This is essential to improved organizational governance. We urge the IOM Administration to continue to promote and facilitate further ratifications.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, it is clear that an ongoing, two-way dialogue between Member States and IOM leadership is essential to the health of the Organization. Members must contribute our time and ideas, in addition to our on-going support, to provide policy guidance and assist IOM in setting its priorities and accomplishing its goals in an efficient manner. IOM, in turn, must continue to exercise fiscal discipline and actively engage Member States in consultations regarding administrative and management issues.

The United States has been a traditional migration country and has benefited from a robust migration regime. Of the 191 million persons living outside their countries of origin, twenty percent live in the U.S. We therefore remain committed to our partnership with IOM and other Member States in addressing the challenges ahead so that we may all reap the rewards that migration yields.

Thank you.