

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Boudewijn J. van Eenennaam

Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations in Geneva

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Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

This past year, coherent migration policies have been the subject of increasing debate and focus all over the world. The Netherlands applauds this development. As the UN Secretary-General stated in his report to the High Level Dialogue (and I quote) "Each of us holds a piece of the migration puzzle, none has the whole picture. It is time to start putting it together". Following the successful High Level Dialogue and looking ahead to the Forum in Brussels next July, the issue of migration and development has secured a place high on the international agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me first briefly say that I would like to endorse Finland's intervention on behalf of the EU. But I should like to make a few additional remarks.

IOM, with many years of migration expertise, has an important role to play. Its membership and activities have rapidly expanded. Now is the time to make important adjustments to its strategy and governing structure, in order to consolidate the work of the organisation. A focus on specific priorities within IOM's broadly defined mandate is crucial at this point. IOM, too, holds an important piece of the migration puzzle – but again, only one piece. IOM must sharpen its focus to position itself strongly among other organisations, mainly within the framework of the Global Migration Group, or GMG. Its upcoming period as chair of the GMG will allow IOM to help strengthen this group of organisations. I suggest that the GMG explores the possibility of taking a coordinated stance on next year's Forum.

But it is not only in the area of migration that IOM, the UN and NGOs need to cooperate and coordinate their work closely. They also need to do so in the field of humanitarian relief activities. The Netherlands supports current proposals on cluster leadership to strengthen the Collaborative Approach on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The effective protection of IDPs involves working in a team with UNHCR and other partners. And that requires leadership, preparedness and coordination. IOM's involvement in discussions on the future of the Collaborative Approach is an excellent development. We urge IOM to keep its governing bodies informed on further progress and developments in this field.

For a long time IOM has been a predominantly service providing organisation. Its strength lies in implementing projects, and this should continue to be its main focus. I stress that IOM should focus only on policy initiatives after consultation with member states. It should, for example, have consulted member states at a much earlier stage on the recent "International Migration and Development Initiative". IOM's ambition to play an active role in the international migration debate is legitimate. But it has to consult closely with its member states on such policies- in the short and long term, and in an open and transparent way. To sum up, IOM should remain flexible, pragmatic and demand-driven.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me mention some important tasks IOM performs with the Netherlands.

IOM is the Netherlands' main partner in implementing programmes for the voluntary return of migrants. Effective voluntary return programmes are of great importance. IOM is also a valuable partner for implementing reintegration programmes for ex-asylumseekers. The

Netherlands would like to cooperate more with other states, for instance on the common use of reintegration facilities.

IOM has also proved a valuable partner in putting various projects into effect. It is currently running a programme for the temporary return of qualified migrants to countries like Sudan, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The initial results seem promising. The Netherlands would be interested in following up this project, together with other donors. We believe IOM should continue its important involvement in programmes for qualified migrants with useful knowledge and experience of diasporas.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Netherlands is eager to share its piece of the migration puzzle and ready to help IOM slot its piece into place.

Thank you.