

MICEM/7/2007

**MAIN POINTS OF THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT**

Mr. Brunson McKinley

at the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council

27 – 30 November 2007

Geneva

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

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MAIN POINTS OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT

IOM Strategy

- We have begun the integration of the June strategy document in all phases of our work.
- At the first meeting of the new Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance in October, delegations conducted a useful discussion of policy issues under the leadership of the acting Chair of the Council.
- We have adjusted the Blue Book to show how our programmes and projects fit with the Council's priorities.
- We have also shared the strategy document with our partners in the Global Migration Group as a guide to future cooperation and coordination.

Continuing Growth

- IOM is drawing steadily closer to its long-standing goal of broad and representative coverage of the world.
- The new Members and Observers we added at this Council session are a sign of IOM's broad acceptance and a welcome reinforcement of our capacity to serve the needs of migrants and governments.
- In the last year and a few months, we have signed cooperation agreements with China, India and the Russian Federation and are developing important programme activities with all three countries.
- The new interest of the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council in working with IOM in general is greatly welcome, as is their intention to refine their system of overseas contract labour and improve conditions for foreign workers in their countries.

Migration and Development

- The Brussels meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development succeeded in launching a process that has the potential of bringing great benefits to all countries.
- The GMG will have a role to play in the next Global Forum in Manila.
- Capacity building for successful participation in the global labour market is a key component in the effort to harness migration for development goals.
- IOM and other GMG agencies are working with the Government of the Philippines and many developing countries on a concept for an International Partnership for Migration and Development that would address the capacity-building needs of the world economy in connection with a better managed labour market. We briefed on this concept at the SCPF.
- In this context, Members will be pleased to learn that multilateral dialogue between sending and receiving countries in Asia, through the Colombo Process, is advancing steadily and seems likely to furnish models of cooperation for other countries and other continents.
- Multilateral cooperation in setting the terms of work by foreigners is the most efficient method of creating a regulated labour market and also one of the best ways to protect the human rights of the workers.

Other New Developments

- The subject of migration and the environment has come to the fore over the past year, bringing greater attention to permanent or temporary human displacement as a result of climate change, global warming, desertification and cataclysmic natural disasters. In this regard, in the 2007 tropical storm season IOM has reacted to emergencies in the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico.
- The Panama Administrative Centre is up and running and promises to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations worldwide.
- In 2008 we shall roll out the second phase of PRISM, our new software platform that will equip IOM with state-of-the-art capabilities in human resource and financial management.
- You all know that we are publishing this year the latest IOM *World Migration Report*, already a touchstone for Governments and students of migration.

Staff Relations

- As the Staff Association Committee told the Member States at the Standing Committee on Programmes and Budget last month, the SAC and the Administration continue to work closely together to identify new areas of cooperation, foster morale and improve working conditions.
- Health insurance for local staff (the majority of our employees), simplified staff regulations and rules, a memorial for colleagues who lost their lives while working for IOM, further measures on tax relief – these are just examples of improvements we shall put in place soon together with the SAC.
- IOM staff work hard and enjoy a real sense of pride and accomplishment. We in the Administration have an obligation to make their work as safe, productive and rewarding as we can – an obligation we share with Member States. Let us all work together, Member States, SAC and the Administration to meet these challenges.