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IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

**101st SESSION OF THE COUNCIL:  
CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL**

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30 November 2012



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**Introduction**

1. The 101st Session of the Council has now concluded, and I wish to thank each of you for your important contribution to Council proceedings. I believe that you should take satisfaction in the successful outcome of our deliberations. Your accomplishments are indeed impressive.
2. I would attribute the successful results of the 101st Session of the Council to: (a) your in-depth engagement on the global trends and issues; and (b) your constructive, positive approach. As you prepare to depart, I should like – on my own behalf and that of all IOM colleagues worldwide – to thank all of the delegations for this excellent outcome.
3. Let me share with you my assessment of what I think has been achieved during these three and a half days together, and the follow-up actions that I believe should flow from this 101st Session of our Council.
4. Before I do so, however, let me thank Ambassador Christian Strohal and the outgoing Bureau he led as Chairperson, and welcome the new Bureau. I am looking forward to working with the new Chairperson, Ambassador Md. Abdul Hannan, and the other Bureau members, and to continuing to support them in a range of activities, including: (a) the work of the Working Group on Budget Reform; and (b) the Friends of the Chair preparations for the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

**Accomplishments**

5. The accomplishments I wish to highlight are as follows:
  - (a) The adoption of the Council resolution on the Migration Crisis Operational Framework. This new crisis management tool will enable IOM to respond to crises in a more organized, efficient, comprehensive and sustainable manner.
  - (b) The adoption of the Council resolution on IOM and the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. This resolution will greatly assist IOM in terms of its role, visibility and effectiveness at these important discussions.
  - (c) The approval of the Programme and Budget for 2013. We have avoided a “fiscal cliff” and know what our possibilities and parameters are for the approaching year.
  - (d) The admission to the Organization of three new Member States (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Myanmar; and Papua New Guinea) and three new observers (World Food

Programme; World Vision International; African and Black Diaspora Global Network on HIV and AIDS). In addition, another six countries' application processes were not completed in time for this session of the Council; however, these countries will most likely become members at the June 2013 special session of the Council.

- (e) The keynote address by His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mahamud, President of the Somali Republic. The Somali President was able to focus our attention on recent positive developments in his country, including the recent elections. He also identified the principal needs of the country, including the areas in which IOM is already actively working: (i) livelihoods; (ii) basic public services (water, electricity, hygiene); (iii) institutional capacity-building; and (iv) the reintegration of disengaged fighters.
- (f) Panels were held on three important migration issues:
  - (i) Managing migration in crisis situations (with senior officials from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs);
  - (ii) Migration and health (with senior officials from the World Health Organization and the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control and Prevention);
  - (iii) The High-level Dialogue (with Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General).
- (g) In addition, two side events took place:
  - (i) IOM's former Legal Counsel, Mr. Richard Perruchoud, presented an important new publication, *Foundations of International Migration Law*, edited by himself, Jillyanne Redpath-Cross, also a former IOM staff member, and Professor Brian Opeskin of Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia);
  - (ii) Presentation of *Migration Initiatives 2013*, which provides an overview of IOM's regional strategies and responses to key global migration issues and country-specific needs.
- (h) New partnership possibilities emerged with the admission of the World Food Programme, World Vision International and the African and Black Diaspora Global Network on HIV and AIDS as observers; with the IOM–United Nations Population Fund co-chairmanship of the Chief Executives Board working group; and the appointment of the new ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder, who, in our first meeting, expressed a keen interest in establishing a partnership on labour migration and other matters.

- (i) Some delegations expressed interest in the suggestion made in my report to Council that perhaps – in conjunction with, or parallel to, the High-level Dialogue preparations – the time had come to review again the relationship between IOM and the United Nations, as it has now been five years since the last review.
- (j) A number of delegations manifested their understanding and sympathy concerning the impact of the zero nominal growth policy on the Organization and called for risk assessment, which will be reported on at the next session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance.
- (k) Some delegations urged IOM to emphasize an approach based on the rights and well-being of migrants in migration management. I acknowledge these remarks and would like to emphasize in turn that a rights-based approach is an integral part of all of IOM's activities, with particular attention given to gender issues and vulnerabilities in programme design and implementation.

#### **Possible follow-up actions by Member States**

6. The following follow-up actions could be envisaged by Member States:
- (a) Help ensure a key role for IOM in the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development on the basis of the relevant IOM Council resolution adopted at this session;
  - (b) Coordinate closely to fill any High-level Dialogue information or engagement gaps between Geneva and New York Missions, on the one hand, and between the Missions and their respective capitals, on the other;
  - (c) Work actively to help ensure that the issue of migration and development is included in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;
  - (d) Support IOM as the leading migration agency: *The migration agency*;
  - (e) Share ideas concerning the novel proposal that emerged at this Council session of holding a world summit on migration (possibly as a High-level Dialogue outcome or deliverable);
  - (f) If not done already: (i) clear any outstanding arrears of assessed contributions; (ii) ratify the constitutional amendments; and (iii) consider making voluntary contributions to IOM special funding facilities, including the IOM Development Fund and the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism.

**Follow-up actions by the Director General**

7. As the Director General, I will:
  - (a) Work closely with the Council Chairperson to ensure implementation of the High-level Dialogue resolution, including by sending the resolution to the President of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as to Member State delegations both in Geneva and New York, with a cover letter signed by me and the Council Chairperson;
  - (b) Report on the status of implementation of the Migration Crisis Operational Framework and ensure that comments made by Member State delegations and UNHCR are taken into consideration.