



## BELARUS

### **International Organization for Migration 101<sup>st</sup> session of the Council**

General Debate

**Statement by**

**Representative of the Republic of Belarus**

29 November 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation thanks the Director General for the inclusive presentation of the report on IOM activity (document MICEM/3/2012).

Belarus welcomes further steps taken by the Administration to prove global migration leadership of IOM. In this context we note the measures aimed at strengthening the Organization's capacity to effectively and timely respond to crisis situations, including but not limited the establishment of *the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism* and the elaboration of *IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework*. We also note with satisfaction that the assistance in counter-trafficking and protection of vulnerable migrants is among 15 sectors listed in IOM Operational Framework. It is reasonable that this document recognizes the primary responsibility of States to protect and assist crisis-affected persons and the complimentary role of IOM in supporting States upon their requests.

Belarus commends IOM continuing active role in combating human trafficking. We appreciate the Director General's personal focused attention to this complex problem. We cannot but express our satisfaction with the results-oriented counter-trafficking activity of IOM: as stated in the report, in 2011 IOM implemented some 220 counter-trafficking projects in 94 countries. We urge the Administration to retain high profile of IOM project activity in this area.

We welcome IOM contribution in the work of the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group (ICAT). We are encouraged by the fact that in May 2012 ICAT launched a new programme of action against trafficking in persons. We commend the Administration for extending its anti-trafficking partnerships with other UN Agencies, especially with UNHCR and UNICEF.

Two weeks ago the UN General Assembly successfully adopted the resolution entitled *"Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking*

*in persons*" that had been put forward by Belarus together with Members of the Group of Friends united Against Human Trafficking. By this resolution the General Assembly decided to convene before July 2013 a high-level meeting in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges in the implementation of *the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. In view of IOM substantial contribution in the global fight against human trafficking we urge the Director General to personally take part in the high-level event of the UN General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

In the light of the challenges posed by the global economic and financial crises the situation of migrants has further deteriorated in the countries of destination, especially in the EU area. We observe numerous concerns expressed by Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and Human Rights Treaty Bodies regarding a pattern of violations of migrants' rights and lack of better employment opportunities for them in the EU member states. Regrettably, we did not find in the report the relevant information about IOM activity in protecting migrants' rights. We call upon the Administration to keep sharp focus on the protection of migrants, including in the European Union. We do hope that the signing of a *strategic partnership* between IOM and the EU will be helpful in this regard. From the perspective of ensuring effective protection of migrants, we believe that there is a need for reflection in *IOM outstanding goals* of measures aimed at encouraging States, especially countries of destination, to accede to *the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*.

Mr. Chairman,

This year the Membership took next step towards meeting the interests of the Administration while adopting the new consolidated budget resolution at the session of the Executive Committee. It should grant more flexibility to the Administration. In this context we also emphasize the need for further increase of unearmarked voluntary contributions and fully support the rational goal to increase the budget of *IOM Development Fund*. A fund-raising campaign launched by the Administration to broaden the donor base and to explore fund-raising possibilities beyond the Member States is an important one.

Last but not least our delegation expresses its profound appreciation to the Administration for the fruitful cooperation Belarus enjoys with IOM both here in Geneva and in the Field. Thank you for your kind attention.