



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

**IOM Council
101st Session**

Geneva, 27 – 30 November 2012

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**Statement
by the
German Delegation**

Mr Chair, Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Germany would like to **associate herself with the statement made by the European Union** and also to **welcome the new Member States** of the IOM: the Union of Myanmar and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

First of all, let me again express our **appreciation of the Director-General's management of the IOM** as a member-owned organization. Under his true leadership, the IOM's reputation and the perception of its work have reached unprecedented levels, a fact which is also reflected in the significant increase in the organization's membership over the past few years. Compared to 15 years ago, IOM has more than doubled its membership, and increased its operational budget, the number of projects and total staff sixfold.

We thank DG Swing for his persistent commitment to **implementing structural reforms** in the organization. The new structure will allow IOM to act both more effectively and more efficiently, the latter being of particular importance in the challenging economic environment we face today.

Mr Chair,

Migration patterns change, but the flow of migration worldwide in recent years has altogether risen dramatically. This is clear evidence of the need for as **effective a management of migration flows as possible**. Also, the political impact and public awareness of migration, and the interlinkages with other policy areas are being increasingly recognized.

Migration management nowadays calls for a holistic and coherent approach – not least at national level – and for intensified cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination. The IOM, with its global focus on and unmatched experience in migration management, is better placed than any other international organization to meet the needs of its member states in this regard. Germany therefore is prepared to support the IOM in developing processes to further improve the use of capacities and to

monitor migration for trends in the future, as the DG mentioned in his remarks on tuesday “on the road to 2018”.

The international humanitarian system at any given time today is faced with multiple emergencies: Syria and the Sahel being the latest sad examples of new and further deteriorating situations.

Germany commends the IOM for its rapid response to these crises and recalls its thoughtful management of the migration movements subsequent to the Libyan crisis in 2011 as well. Germany has substantially supported the IOM in the evacuation of persons in need from Misrata to Benghazi and with the provision of humanitarian aid to Misrata. Further, Germany has supported the IOM in the voluntary return of Chadian nationals from Libya to their home country. Very recently, we have rendered support to IOM’s operations in Chad, Iraq and Syria.

Germany explicitly welcomes the establishment of a **Migration Crisis Operational Framework**, approved by the Council this tuesday. It will further strengthen IOM’s internal humanitarian crisis planning capacities and thus enable the IOM to react even faster to similar developments in the future.

Germany has been a member of the IOM since 1954 and is one of the largest contributors. With its expertise and decades of experience in the area of migration management, the IOM is an important partner for Germany. Let me recall more than 30 years of continuous and fruitful cooperation with the IOM in the area of assisted voluntary return and repatriation from Germany to the respective home countries. In 2012 Germany additionally started a resettlement program with 300 places annually.

Mr Chair,

Germany commends the IOM for keeping a balanced budget based on Zero Nominal Growth in times of bleak global economic outlook. We do not overlook the fact that this might negatively affect the organization’s work when faced with rising costs for a growing number of operations and emergencies. In order to maintain a sound financial basis it will therefore be key for IOM to expand its donor base. We encourage IOM to continue its efforts in this regard, to approach non-traditional donors and to explore private donor fundraising.

In this context, we also support the concept of the **Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism** as a credit line for immediate response; this mechanism could, for example, contribute to full funding by inviting local private financial institutes to commit a credit line pro bono.

We also commend the IOM for its **contribution to the work of the Global Forum of Migration and Development**, which has evolved into a truly global platform for an informal exchange on issues of migration and development between governments with the active participation of international organizations.

At the same time, the International Dialogue on Migration (**IDM**) provides a valuable forum for the discussion of urgent issues in migration management: this year's agenda, focusing on migrants caught in complex crises, deserved thorough deliberation, as do the issues "smuggling of migrants" (discussed at SCPF in October) and the perennial issue of strengthening efforts for the most vulnerable groups of migrants highlighted by the DG.

As the Director-General pointed out in his key note presentation, migration rightly needs to be "re-branded" as inevitable, necessary, and desirable.

Finally, Germany appreciates IOM's engagement in the preparation for the **High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2013**. We are certain, that IOM, as a co-chair of the Chief Executive Board's ad-hoc working group, and in cooperation with the Global Migration Group and the broader UN system, will pave the way and make an outstanding contribution to the HLD.

Thank you, Mr Chair.