

**Permanent Mission of India  
Geneva**

**Statement**

**101<sup>st</sup> Session of the IOM Council  
Geneva: 27-30 November 2012**

Mr. Chairperson,

We express our warm felicitations to you on your election as Distinguished Chairperson of the International Organization for Migration Council. We also express our deepest gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador Strohal, for his valuable and experienced support, counsel and guidance in the institutional mechanisms of IOM, including the Standing Committee on Programme and Finance and the Council. We felicitate the election of Colombia, Zimbabwe and Belgium as first, second Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur respectively to the Bureau of the IOM Council. India reiterates its commitment of constructive cooperation in its engagement with IOM and Member States. We wish to take this opportunity to welcome the newest members, Myanmar, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to the IOM Council.

2. Mr. Chairperson, we wish to also take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the Director-General for his unstinting dedication in provision of IOM's service whenever it was required. This was even more evident in 2012, that witnessed unprecedented number of events impacting on migration and migrants. The Director-General's untiring efforts and IOM's institutional mechanisms have resulted in smooth management of migration that has benefited many migrants during periods of financial and political stress. We wish to thank IOM for the comprehensive documentation provided for the meeting.

3. We deeply appreciate the comprehensive nature of the Director-General's Report and agree with him that about the unprecedented increase in migration. Migration is here to stay, due to the market forces, the drivers of development and technology. At the same time, migrants contribution to the society and the economy of both the receiving as well as the sending State have been invaluable and beneficial. We acknowledge and anticipate the dynamic contribution of IOM in the forthcoming of 2<sup>nd</sup> United Nations High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in October 2013.

4. We commend the detailed information furnished in IOM's Programme and Budget for 2013 and express our appreciation to the Director General for strengthening and reinforcing the internal IOM mechanisms on IOM's accountability through

- (i) The Audit Advisory Committee,
- (ii) The Office of the Inspector General,
- (iii) The appointment of an Ethics Officer and an Ethics Coordinating Committee.

5. We note that with a budget of approx. US\$ 1.3 billion, IOM has rendered valuable service in the area of its core mandate namely management of migration in a humane and orderly manner. At the same time, IOM has been able to maintain a zero nominal growth for the Administrative part of the budget. We have noted DG's views for the need for a larger and more robust core administrative structure, and financial reserves for it and look forward to participation in any discussions about it including the need to ensure that States continue to be the central and core participants in the formulation of IOM's policies.

6. In his Report, the Director-General has recommended reaching out in search of additional partnerships. While we remain committed to cooperation with UN agencies, civil society, private sector entities and academic world for facilitation of IOM's duties on migration, we would urge the need for careful assessment by IOM for proposed additional partnerships against the backdrop of (i) an already overstretched core administrative budget structure for which consultations between IOM and States are necessary and (ii) focusing on implementation of IOM's core mandate.

7. We thank the Director-General for the comprehensive information provided in his Report on IOM's response in operations and emergencies including the in principle agreement to consult ILO, UNHCR and ICRC. At the same time, with regard to mixed migration flows, our position is that it would be a retrograde step if issues relating to migration and asylum were allowed to intersect as the apprehensions of one are likely to be transposed on the other. Furthermore, in the area of disaster management, where the primary responsibility is that of the State, IOM has a supportive role, vide UNGA Resolution 46/182 of complementing and cooperating the humanitarian tasks performed by States and humanitarian agencies through the cluster-based mechanism spearheaded by OCHA.

8. With reference to the Resolution on the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework, we would appreciate a confirmation of attaching the Rapporteur/facilitator's statement made on Tuesday, 27 November 2012 prior to the consideration of the Resolution for a comprehensive reference to the subject for follow-up on important issues that require further discussions among Member States. The IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework would need to ensure that (i) the discharge of duties of IOM through the proposed IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework, is not at the cost of discharge of the

core mandate of IOM, (ii) without any added financial implications or added human resources and (iii) to be implemented with the specific consent of the affected State. We look forward to the interactions with Director-General on a regular basis in the institutional mechanisms of IOM on the application of the Migration Crisis Operational Framework. We look forward to a comprehensive annual review of the application of the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework including an assessment by the auditors and the other oversight mechanisms of IOM, on its impact on the efficiency regarding discharge of IOM's core mandate of managing migration in a humane and orderly manner. Against the backdrop of financial constraints articulated by the Director-General, we look forward to a confirmation, that the discharge of duties of IOM through this framework do not duplicate similar responsibilities being implemented by other UN and international organizations and will be in coordination with the core UN-led humanitarian mechanism of OCHA. We look forward to participation in further discussions with other States and IOM on establishing terms of reference for the partners and capacity-building through this framework.

9. Mr. Chairperson, States have the primary duty with regard to the movement and welfare of migrants. As a sending, transit and a destination State, India plays a multiple role in discharge of its responsibilities towards the migrants, including ensuring that the concerned State mechanisms are accountable to the migrants and their families for their security and welfare. We concur with IOM regarding the 2013 High-Level Dialogue in the UNGA being an opportunity to consolidate progress in the domain of migration and development, including examining a review of IOM-United Nations relations since 2007.

10. Mr. Chairperson, we remain committed to constructively cooperating with you and IOM towards a fruitful outcome for the benefit of migrants.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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