

Japan's Statement at 101th Session of the IOM Council, November 2012

Delivered by Amb. Takashi OKADA

Mr. Chairman, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

(Tribute to the new and out-going Chair)

At the outset, I extend my congratulations to Ambassador Abdul Hannan and other members of the bureau on their election. Japan looks forward to working with them during the coming year. I would also like to thank outgoing Chair Ambassador Christian Strohal for his dedicated leadership during the last Council session. I also congratulate and welcome the new Member States, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Myanmar.

Mr. Chairman,

(Comments on DG's report)

My delegation pays tribute to the Director General for the report presented at the Council yesterday. Japan highly regards the various measures which the IOM has taken in order to achieve its management priorities in the context of rapid changes in its operating environment, a broadening scope of work, an expanding membership as well as funding constraints. Japan takes note in particular of IOM's increasingly closer cooperation with humanitarian and development agencies.

Japan commends IOM's efforts to increase its efficiency and effectiveness as outlined in the Director General's report, and encourages IOM to continue in this vein. While we fully acknowledge the efforts being made, we urge that they be continued and stepped up, in particular to achieve better gender and geographical equity in the Organisation. For its part, Japan will continue to contribute to the work of the Working Group on Budget Reform.

Japan looks forward to Amb. Swing's continued leadership in coping with these challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

I now turn to the three areas in which Japan wishes to enhance its partnership with IOM.

(Integration of foreign nationals in Japan)

On the integration of foreign nationals in Japan, IOM and the government of Japan have jointly held regular seminars on this topic. These events have contributed substantially to raising the awareness of the public and various government authorities regarding the complex issues related to migration. We look forward to continuing and expanding our work with the IOM in this area..

(Promotion of Human Security)

The IOM's laudable response during the crises in Libya and Syria does not need to be repeated. In this connection, Japan welcomes the adoption of the Council resolution yesterday on IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework, which further enhances IOM's response capacity.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to recall the UN General Assembly resolution on Human Security which was adopted this September (A/RES/66/290). While fully acknowledging primary role of governments to their citizens, the resolution clearly states international community's role to provide necessary support for the survival, livelihood and dignity of individuals and communities. IOM serves a highly important role in protecting and empowering people on the move, thus translating the human security concept into reality on the ground. IOM has been a major implementing partner of projects funded through the UN Human Security Trust Fund. I sincerely hope that the concept of human security is further reflected in IOM's operations.

(Africa and TICAD V)

Mr. Chairman,

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Mauritius last week highlighted the dynamic change taking place in Africa and the challenges it has

yet to overcome. Next June, Japan will co-host Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, TICAD V in Yokohama together with the UN, the African Union and other international organizations.

The IOM has strong relevance to the TICAD process. The IOM has significantly expanded its operations in Africa in last 10 years, and we all know about the crucial role it played in Libya last year. In view of IOM's vital role, Japan contributed to the IOM about 92 million US dollars since 2008. We look forward to working with IOM and all other stakeholders in order to enhance the well-being of African countries and their peoples towards the TICAD V meeting.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Japan's commitment to continued support for the IOM as the leading agency on migration.

Thank you.