



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
GENEVA

(Check against delivery)

Statement by H.E. Ambassador CHOI Seokyoung
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
At the 101th Session of the IOM Council
29 November 2012

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

I would also like to extend my congratulations to Ambassador Hannan as the new Chairman, and the Council Bureau on their election. I look forward to working closely with you during the coming year.

In the past several years, we have witnessed multiple complex humanitarian crises unfolding against a backdrop of political, social and economic turmoil around the world. Migration has become increasingly a geopolitical security issue that tends, at time, scapegoat migrants in general. Under these circumstances, IOM has significantly contributed to the support for the affected population including, inter alia, in Syria and neighboring countries this year, just it has made an exemplary contribution in Libya last year and Haiti in the year before.

My delegation notes that the concept of ‘migration crisis’ well captures the nature of complex and often large-scale migration flows and patterns caused by such crises. In this regard, the introduction of the “IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework” is timely and important. With this Framework, IOM, Member States and Partners could better respond to the needs of assistance and protection for crisis-affected populations.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to reaffirm its support regarding IOM’s ongoing reform initiatives led by its Director General, Ambassador William Swing, in the areas of budget, human resource management and structure.

I wish to express my appreciation for his strong leadership. In particular, my government commends the efforts of IOM Secretariat to maintain zero nominal growth in the administrative part of the budget, which has continued

for four years in a row. At the same time, my delegation sees the merit of assessing both savings made as a result of such efforts and possible risks incurred by the constraints on the core budget.

I also wish to note with appreciation significant achievements that the Working Group on Budget Reform has made since its establishment in May 2010. I hope that the Group will continue to explore and help secure alternative funding sources to improve IOM's financial situation. I am confident that these reform initiatives will contribute to making IOM more efficient and dynamic organization, thereby better responding to current and future migration challenges.

Turing over the second UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (UNGA/HLD) to be held in New York next year, we welcome IOM's initiative to provide substantive input to the event and hope that the expertise of IOM will be duly utilized in preparatory process.

Mr. Chairman,

In recognition of IOM's vast network of field offices, its skilled staff and expertise, the Korean government concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IOM in June this year. With this MOU, Korean nationals abroad could be provided IOM's services upon the request of the Korean government, such as in-country transportation arrangement and international evacuation assistance among others.

Mr. Chairman,

As the Director General rightly points out in his report, we live in an era with unprecedented human mobility. There are more people on the move than any time recorded in a history. IOM is now faced with multiple challenges arising from political, economic, or technical aspects in addition to the complexities of modern migration. I am confident, however, that IOM as a primary migration agency will continue to enhance its capacities through expanding partnership with Member States and other stakeholders.

In closing, cognizant of the increased global responsibility of IOM in protecting migrants and addressing issues on migration, the Korean Government is committed to close works together with IOM. Thank you.