

**STATEMENT TO THE 101ST SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION COUNCIL**

Distinguished Participants,

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

World Vision began its journey in the United States in 1950 but it is now a truly global partnership, working in more than 95 countries, with over 50 autonomous but inter-dependent members, 44,000 staff - the vast majority of them nationals of the countries in which they are working - and a budget of over USD2.79 billion dollars in the 2010/11 Financial Year.

World Vision and IOM have worked together over many years and in many parts of the world, responding to outflows of refugees and people displaced by natural disasters or conflict. The Council's acceptance of our application for Observer Status reflects an appreciation of shared goals and of the added value for both our organizations that results from more purposeful cooperation. Thank you.

But even greater opportunities and challenges lie ahead.

In this regard, World Vision shares the International Organization for Migration's assessment of the implications for people of recent geo-political and social and economic trends - with levels of insecurity expected to increase as a result of changing weather patterns and worrying levels of violence that can be attributed in part to a thriving but often ignored globalized, 'underground' or illegal economy. World Vision is concerned that there is not a greater sense of urgency in development and humanitarian assistance circles about the work that remains to be done to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability through Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction and peace building. We are mobilizing across the World Vision partnership to play our part in

the conversations about new development goals (Beyond 2015) and the needed strengthening of political will, financing for development (with greater attention to the roles of citizens as well as the private sector as significant development actors), 'development architecture' that recognizes the importance of non-traditional donors, and transparency and accountability mechanisms to increase effectiveness. These aspects speak to the second part of our Vision (our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so) and MDG 9.

Our particular concern is for the world's children.

Our vision is, for every child, life in all its fullness. We have four aspirations for girls and boys

1. that they enjoy good health (surviving 'five' and with continued progress in the battle against preventable killer diseases);
2. they are educated for life (which incorporates the need for sustainable livelihoods);
3. they experience love of God and their neighbours (which applies our positive experience of the role of faith and inter-faith engagement and investment in the psycho-social welfare of children in communities) ; and
4. are cared for, protected and participating (recognizing that in many discussions of this kind, the voices of children are poorly represented).

In this regard, I would like to mention World Vision's active involvement in humanitarian and child protection and anti-trafficking initiatives. We have joined efforts through NGO and other coalitions in pressing for birth registration and in raising the profile of migration and development issues, including the situation of children left behind by parents ("orphans of labour migration") who have chosen the path of migration to improve their ability to provide for their families. We recall the General Discussion of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children in the context of international migration on 28th September 2012 in Geneva. We are concerned that, despite the increasing number of children involved in or affected by the large-scale and complex population movements, too often, immigration and child protection policies and procedures do not adequately address the specific needs or the violations of the rights of the child on move.

On human trafficking, World Vision is represented on the EU's Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings.

In the chaos that follows major humanitarian disasters - whether natural disasters or man-made like armed conflicts - children are especially vulnerable to become victims of human trafficking, separated - temporarily or permanently - from their parents and/or other care givers and protectors. This vulnerability persists not only during the immediate phase of humanitarian relief but often also well into the recovery phase, as has been witnessed in major disasters like the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2010 Haiti earthquake and other humanitarian crisis situations.

International humanitarian actors - the UN system, the EU, major international donor agencies, national governments of the stricken countries, INGOs, local civil society and others - should acknowledge this particular risk and ensure that in the design of both the short term, immediate relief phase as well as during the medium and longer term recovery phase, due account is taken of this particular risk and mitigating measures should be integrated into the design of relief and recovery programs. We have especially appreciated the IOM's leadership in pressing for greater accountability to affected populations, in particular with regard to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Finally, World Vision is keen to move from exploration of new modalities of cooperation and the piloting of available technologies, to mainstreaming and actively supporting multi-stakeholder partnerships where less attention is paid to marketing imperatives and the competition for resources and more to the matching of skills and capabilities and mutual and collective accountability.

In all of these areas, we see opportunities for, indeed, the necessity of closer collaboration with the IOM - not only in Geneva, but in regional and national contexts as well - on these issues. In some areas, more research is needed to shape recommendations and responses, e.g. on the scale of trafficking, the methods used by traffickers and good practices in risk mitigation. In others, secondments and exchanges or joint training activities could enhance cooperation in areas like supply chain management and logistics.

On behalf of our President and Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Jenkins, I thank you for your endorsement of our request for Observer Status and for the opportunity to speak to you today.