



## **BELARUS**

### **International Organization for Migration 103<sup>rd</sup> session of the Council**

General Debate

**Statement by  
Representative of the Republic of Belarus**

28 November 2013

Mr. Chairman,

First of all I would like to congratulate you and members of the Bureau with election. I also welcome new Member States, Turkmenistan, Iceland, Fiji and Marshall Islands who have joined the IOM family at this session, and new observers to the Organization.

We commend the informative and comprehensive report presented by Director General. This report provides a very good account of current situation, existing and emerging challenges as well as IOM work and initiatives to address them. We highly appreciate the efforts of Director General to promote IOM priorities and ensure continuity in the work of the Organization, and congratulate Mr. Swing with his reelection to this post in June this year.

Being a field-based and project-oriented organization, IOM has established important partnerships with national governments, public sector, non-governmental and international organizations dealing with various aspects of migration. The increasing complexity and intensity of different crises and humanitarian emergency situations require the IOM even more effectively than ever to carry out its mandate by dealing with all aspects of migration on global, regional and local levels.

We believe that decisions adopted at this session of the Council will further strengthen operational capabilities of the IOM and provide for increased transparency, accountability and sustainability in its work.

We also welcome the constructive contribution of the IOM to the High Level Dialogue held in New York in October. In this respect we welcome the establishment of Working Group on IOM – UN relations as well as proposed resolution on Migration and post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

On 14 November UN General Assembly at its 68th session unanimously adopted resolution “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons” put forward by Belarus together with Members of the Group of Friends united Against Human Trafficking. This resolution underlines the need to continue to work towards an enhanced comprehensive and coordinated approach to prevent and combat trafficking and to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms.

In this regard we are satisfied that countering smuggling people and trafficking in persons remains high on the IOM list of priorities and project activities. We commend the commitment and tireless efforts of the IOM staff aimed at strengthening the capacities of partner governments and civil society organizations to provide protection and empower victims of trafficking, to raise awareness and bring justice to trafficked persons.

In the report of Director General we have noted serious concern regarding a very dangerous trend – the continuing rise of the anti-migrant sentiment. What is worrying is that this phenomena has turned to be a pressing issue in many developed countries receiving migrants. We welcome the IOM initiatives to counter this trend, including the announced broad information campaigns on migrants' contribution to development.

In the conclusion I would like to express our appreciation to the IOM Administration for the constructive cooperation Belarus enjoys with IOM both in Geneva and in Minsk.

Thank you for your kind attention.