



# NEW ZEALAND

10<sup>3rd</sup> SESSION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION COUNCIL

STATEMENT BY  
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*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

## *New Zealand Government*



### **Statement to the IOM Council**

Geneva

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*Tena koutou, Tena koutou katoa*

*Greetings to you, greetings to you all*

Director General, fellow delegates and colleagues, I speak on behalf of the New Zealand Government.

We would like to acknowledge and applaud the Director General for his continued sound management of the IOM. We appreciate in particular the contribution the IOM is making in the area of migration and development, reflected particularly during the lead-up to the United Nations High Level Dialogue earlier this year in New York.

We acknowledge the difficult environment in which the IOM is operating. This is especially so given the challenges posed by political and civil unrest giving rise to large numbers of people movements across borders and within countries and across regions. This has come at a time when several countries have experienced the devastating effects of significant natural disasters, the latest being the typhoon in the Philippines. We recognise that the IOM is continuing to respond to these international challenges, while embedding a change programme to ensure it continues to operate effectively.

We would like to congratulate the IOM in advance on the release of its information campaign on the contribution of migrants. This is an important topic, both following on from the High Level Dialogue and given increasing global labour mobility. As migrant labour becomes more mobile efforts to recognise workers' contribution becomes ever more important for social cohesion. In parallel with this is a recognised need to ensure migrants are protected from exploitation.

New Zealand, like many other countries, relies on migration to supplement its skilled labour force. As a nation with a small population base and being geographically distant from other countries, New Zealand must be smart in the way it targets its immigration strategies. The global economic crisis has posed a challenge in recent years to attracting the migrants New Zealand needs, as has the ongoing impact of the Canterbury earthquakes on one of its major cities.

The New Zealand Government has recognised the need for its public service to respond effectively to current challenges. This in part means agencies working together more cooperatively. Government places a strong priority on agencies contributing to the economy in particular.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment was established in July 2012 as part of Government's plan to improve the effectiveness of the public service and progress New Zealand's business growth agenda. The Ministry's stated purpose is to Grow New Zealand for All. The new agency will achieve this by helping businesses to become more productive and internationally competitive, and by increasing opportunities for all New Zealanders to contribute to the economy.

Immigration New Zealand, the agency responsible for implementing immigration policy and the provision of immigration services, has been incorporated into the Ministry, along with several other agencies, including the Ministry for Economic Development. This means that Immigration New Zealand has been tasked with tailoring its immigration settings to optimise its contribution to the economy, whilst still meeting its humanitarian obligations and recognising the social contribution made by migration.

The importance of migrant labour to the economy is particularly visible in Canterbury as rebuilding efforts increase. New Zealand has tailored its immigration settings to facilitate the recruitment of a skilled migrant labour force in that region. This in itself brings its own social pressures, particularly with accommodating and managing the influx of a large number of migrant workers, particularly young, single men.

The ready availability of both skilled and unskilled employment in the region has posed further challenges, with the need to ensure that migrants are lawfully employed, and that they are not exploited. New Zealand has responded by expanding penalties under the Immigration Act 2009 to deter employers from exploiting migrant workers, and by introducing new policy settings protecting the immigration status of migrant workers found to have been exploited.

New Zealand is also continuing to stand firm against people smuggling. Further changes to the Immigration Act this year introduced provisions to streamline the handling of an irregular mass arrival by sea, should one occur. New Zealand

continues to be an active participant in the Bali Process. This year New Zealand seconded a staff member to the Bali Process Regional Support Office in Bangkok to work on a series of policy guides. New Zealand also participated in other regional forums related to the movement of people in the region as they arise, such as the Joint Ministerial Commission held in Indonesia earlier this year.

Director General, I will conclude by reinforcing New Zealand's support for the IOM's work, and thank the IOM for its on going support. We look forward to a strong, continued relationship for many years to come.

*Nga mihi rawa atu*

*Many thanks..*