



International Organization for Migration
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Item 7.

STATEMENT

H.E. Ambassador Vladislav Mladenovic

Geneva

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank Ambassador Abdul Hannan, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, for skillfully chairing the Council in the last year. At the same time I wish Ambassador Luis Enrique Chavez Basagoitia, Permanent Representative of Peru, all success in chairing the Council.

Having in mind that Serbia joined the European Union Statement regarding item 7. of the Agenda, I will just make a few comments related to cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and the International Organization for Migration.

I would like to emphasize the excellent cooperation in the field of developing a migration management system. Through joint programs with the IOM a solid foundation of migration management has been put in place in Serbia. The Law on migration management foresees the establishment and implementation of mechanisms for comprehensive and continuous monitoring of migration flows in the Republic of Serbia.

We fully support the regional approach taken by IOM in South East Europe. Serbia recognizes that enhancing regional coordination constitutes a pragmatic, cost-effective, and sustainable approach that contributes to resolving the particular challenges faced by the region in tackling the issue of migration.

Serbia and other countries from the South East European region are experiencing increasing extra-regional irregular migration and migrant smuggling. It is of crucial importance that mechanisms are enhanced and capacities strengthened in order to pre-empt and manage these flows.

We are particularly concerned regarding number of human trafficking cases, one of the biggest problems that migrants are exposed to today.

In this regard we look forward to furthering our cooperation and coordination, through building upon completed and ongoing projects within this sphere and utilizing expertise and long-standing field presence of IOM in Serbia and within the region.

Serbia also welcomes and supports the IOM - UNHCR regional initiative to further coordinate migration and asylum issues at the regional level as a multifaceted and comprehensive approach, but also one that delivers concrete and action-oriented solutions to solving these challenges in practice.

Mr. Chairperson

We share the optimism following the achieved consensus with respect to all matters related to the budget reform of the Organization and the establishment of the Working group on IOM-UN relations, given the leading role that the IOM has in resolving migration problems in the world.

We believe that the conclusions of the recent High Level Dialogue should be implemented as soon as possible and that the Post 2015 Development Agenda should include migrants.

As a country with a significant Diaspora, Serbia attaches great importance to issues related to the economic, social and human rights of migrants. They are an important factor of economic and social development in the countries in which they work and live. They also maintain close connections with their homeland and contribute to its economic prosperity.

In this respect, Serbia hopes that practical and effective solutions would soon be found to lower the high costs of remittance fees.

We also believe that special programs for migrant should be envisage, taking into account their linguistic, cultural and other differences.

My delegation would like to support the holding of a global conference on the theme of "Migrants and Cities" in the first part of 2015.