

Council of the International Organization for Migration - 103rd Session
Geneva, Tuesday 26 November - Friday 29 November 2013
Conference Room XVII
Palais des Nations, Geneva,

Statement by Ms. Marilena Viviani, Associate Director for Programme Partnerships, Programme Division, UNICEF

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Distinguished Chairperson,

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is very pleased to join the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as an Observer and would like to thank IOM Member States for considering favourably its application.

UNICEF trusts that Observer status will contribute to enhancing the visibility of the human rights and protection needs of all children in the context of migration and their families in countries of origin, transit and destination, particularly in the post-2015 development agenda. UNICEF is working closely with IOM on strengthening global protection mechanisms for unaccompanied and separated migrant children.

UNICEF looks forward to consolidating its cooperation with IOM at the field level in years to come in a number of strategic areas, such as the initiative on *Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies*, data and measurement work, and environmental change-induced migration. UNICEF is committed to continuing its very fruitful collaboration with IOM in humanitarian assistance activities, including pre-crisis preparedness, emergency response and post-crisis recovery.

UNICEF congratulates IOM for its able Chairmanship of the Global Migration Group (GMG) during the second semester of 2013 and for its leadership in advocating for the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development framework. We also look forward to working closely with IOM in 2014 as it assumes the Chairmanship of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Human Beings. UNICEF stands ready to support IOM, Member States and partners in these efforts, always with a focus on fulfilling the human rights of migrants and their families and on the social dimensions of migration.