

## **Draft UK Statement at IOM Council, 26-29 November 2013**

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour to take the floor at this 103rd Session of the IOM Council. The UK aligns itself with the statement made earlier on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Let me begin by extending my thanks to the Director-General for his strong leadership and direction of the organisation. The UK also commends IOM staff for their dedication and hard work, often in very difficult or dangerous situations. And we join others in welcoming the countries who have just become members of the organisation.

Mr Chairman,

The UK highly values its close partnership with the IOM, which covers a broad range of areas from returns projects and refugee resettlement in the UK, to combating trafficking, and humanitarian work.

The UK commends the IOM for the strong role it has played in the many humanitarian and migration crises we have seen over the last year including in Syria, Mali, Sudan, South Sudan, and Yemen. As co-lead of the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster, IOM has a key role to play, including in the protection of women and girls in emergencies. We also welcome the IOM's response to the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan, and IOM's efforts more generally to promote disaster preparedness.

The UK has been a firm supporter of the restructuring and reform process undertaken by the Director-General and Deputy Director-General. The field-level reorganisation, as well as human resources reforms are helping create a stronger, more effective, efficient, and even more flexible organisation. The UK believes that the IOM's strength lies in its approach to operational service delivery, with its flexible and rapid response capacity. The new emergency migration funding mechanism has helped strengthen this capacity. IOM's experience in the field allows it to develop high quality migration management and capacity building projects that are of benefit to all Member States, whether they are destination, transit or origin countries for migrants. That said, the UK is also keen for the IOM to develop a more strategic institutional-level results framework that would allow IOM to better measure and showcase its overall operational impact.

In the context of the ongoing extremely difficult global economic climate, the UK has had to take tough measures nationally to control and reduce public spending. The UK expects that the partners we work with will also be actively ensuring value for money and efficiency. In this context, we are encouraging all international organisations to put forward Zero Nominal Growth or reduced budget proposals. Nevertheless given the efforts made by IOM to prioritise and to ensure efficient delivery of services, and given that the long period of ZNG budgeting has created some gaps in core governance structures including evaluation and human resources management, the UK is able to accept the proposal for a 4% increase over the period 2014-2016.

We appreciate this opportunity to take part in the discussion of the current and future challenges faced both by the Organisation, and by its members. I would like to conclude by thanking again IOM staff around the world for their continued commitment to delivering for the organisation in often demanding conditions.

Thank you.