



**International Organization for Migration  
105th Session of the Council  
Australian Statement – General Debate**

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25-29 November 2014

Chair, I would like to warmly welcome you as our new chair and extend Australia's congratulations to our fellow Bureau members. I am honoured to attend this 105<sup>th</sup> IOM Council session, indeed my first, and to have been elected to the position of Second-Vice Chair for the forthcoming year. Australia is a strong supporter of IOM. We've had a long and enduring partnership, and a role on IOM's governing bureau is a logical extension of that partnership and our commitment to it.

I also take this opportunity to welcome our newest IOM member state, Samoa; a regional neighbour and friend with whom we share both a part of the globe and a migration story. Australia is pleased to see the continued growth in participation in IOM with the many new observers joining us this Council.

The Director General's report to Council, provided a concise picture of the state of global mobility and its impacts. Director General, you have told us that Migration is Inevitable; Necessary; and Desirable and we couldn't agree more. And moreover, we know that for it to be optimal, it should be safe, orderly and dignified. Migrants, whether labour, family

or humanitarian, should be enabled to arrive safely and engage fully in their new communities to achieve the “migration triple-win”: for countries of origin; destination and migrants equally. To this end, IOM, as the leading international organisation on migration, is uniquely placed to work with States to help develop the required capabilities and coherence in migration policies and practices at the national, regional and international levels.

We acknowledge IOM’s ongoing efforts to refine traditional, core IOM services such as refugee resettlement, cultural orientation and migrant health screening - in which we’ve been long term partners. And we welcome *new* initiatives.

The International Recruitment Integrity System, IRIS, is a good example: the project aims to prevent the exploitation of workers; and to ensure ethical recruitment remains a means to promote safe and regular migration. It is in this space that *migration* meets *development*, where your *Necessary* meets *Desirable*. We commend the efforts of the administration in this endeavour and we’ve been happy to offer a little support along the way.

We’ve also seen IOM innovation and solutions-focus in identifying safe corridors out of Syria for assisting refugees bound for resettlement to countries including our own. Often, as so many members states have pointed out, responding to, managing and optimising migration is difficult. IOM can and does make it easier.

In many endeavours we are more than partnering in efforts but co-designing approaches. Our current research undertaking with the University of Maastricht is a good example of where we’ve joined policy forces. And we continue to support IOM’s policy agenda through

support to the Dialogues and the World Migration Report. Strengthening the migration capabilities of Afghan officials through the placement of an advisory support officer has been another practical and useful joint exercise. And together we are building migration border capacity with the governments of Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, East Timor, Sri Lanka and Iraq.

Chair, we are keen to preserve the core institutional qualities that contribute to IOM's strength and reputation as the leading international organization on migration. The IOM-UN discussions have again sharpened our focus on these strengths. We remain committed to the ongoing Working Group discussions and welcome the Director-General's contribution to these discussions. As the 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee negotiations play out, we engage actively and we heed your warnings about the scope for new and strengthened UN processes to potentially diminish the central and pivotal role for IOM in migration policy and practice. We call on all member states to ensure coherence in approaches here in Geneva in relation to IOM, and in New York.

On institution strengthening measures, we underline our support for the effective implementation of the budget reforms that will continue to deliver new funding for important functions such as legal services, oversight, monitoring and evaluation. We thank the Director-General for the offer of additional briefing on this matter in the first quarter of 2015. We note with interest the outcomes of the 2009 Structure Review. The administration has done well to implement organisational reform in a manner that complements its operational values and strategy. It has established a structure that allows the organization the flexibility to provide tailored projects and migration management solutions. We would encourage IOM to ensure it remains focused on outreach to members states to inform those strategic priorities in the field.

In closing, Chair, we would like to extend our thanks to the IOM staff who delivers our agenda across the globe. Their responsiveness, collegiality, pragmatic and solution-focused approach continues to be recognised by my Government and our officials engaging with them on a day to day basis in the field.

Thank you.