



Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, let me express our appreciation for the work carried out in the past year by Ambassador Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia, as Chairperson of the IOM Council. We also would like to commend you, Mr. Chairperson, for your election and wish you all the luck in your endeavors.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Laura Thompson for her re-election as Deputy Director-General.

For Brazil, migration is an integral element of the global development process and, as such, it is a fact that affects us all. In this regard, we fully concur with the report of the Director-General that lists, among the main global priorities for the Organization, the importance of changing the migration "narrative" towards a more balanced discourse.

The current year has highlighted the multifaceted challenges in the migration field. As humanitarian crises have proliferated over the globe, the number of migrants and asylum seekers has also expanded.

We share the view that migration contributes to the development of both origin and host countries. While we strongly condemn human trafficking and migrant smuggling, the movement of people across the globe, in and of itself, should not be seen or treated as a criminal act.

For our part, between 2011 and 2013, there was an increase of more than 50% in the number of foreigners living in Brazil. I would like to highlight the forty thousand Haitians that were admitted in Brazil since the 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince, many of them through humanitarian visas.

Similarly, the number of refugees in Brazil has increased by more than 1255% in the last three years. For the first time, Syrian refugees outnumber Colombians and Angolans living in our country. In total, we shelter citizens from 81 nationalities.

At 1.5 million, the number of foreign residents in Brazil is still low both as a proportion of the national population and as a historical measure, but it clearly consolidates a new pattern. After two decades of net negative migration (the 1980`s and 1990`s), Brazil is again assuming its historical role as a recipient country of migrants.

In this context, we would like to take this opportunity to announce that the Brazilian Government is discussing a new Migration Bill, to be submitted to the National Congress for consideration. The draft is being prepared taking into account consultations with experts, scholars and representatives of civil society.

It aims to modernize the current Brazilian legislation, which dates from the early 1980`s, in order to reflect a view of migration firmly anchored in the promotion of human rights and humanitarian law that furthers the rights of all migrants living in Brazil. This is in accordance with the open and diverse society we have consolidated over the past three decades of democratic experience.

Brazil is ready to fully engage with the Organization in addressing the global migration challenges ahead. After the positive outcome of the consultations on the date of accession of Brazil to the IOM, we look forward to a productive and fruitful relationship in the upcoming years, now as a full member.

Thank you.