

Statement by His Excellency Mr. Thani Thongphakdi

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
General Debate, 105th Session of the IOM Council
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Room XVII, Palais des Nations

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Chairperson,

Director-General Swing,

I wish first of all to congratulate you and, through you, the new members of the bureau. My appreciation also goes to Ambassador Chávez Basagoitia and the outgoing members of the bureau for their excellent work over the past year. Please rest assured of my delegation's continued support and cooperation as we work together to further enhance the protection and ensure the rights of migrants.

My delegation appreciates the report of the Director-General, which underlined the importance of a more positive and balanced discourse on global migration trends, the many activities of the IOM throughout the year, and the plans ahead leading to the 65th anniversary of the IOM in 2016. The summary of the management initiatives are also appreciated, particularly the 2014 IOM Gender Coordination Report which we believe will help promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming in IOM's many operations and activities. I am also pleased to learn that migrant training activities have been conducted in many countries. The importance of this issue cannot be overemphasized because quality education and adequate training are key to strengthen the role of migrants in development and their potential contribution to the development of both countries of origin and destination.

Chairperson,

My delegation commends efforts made by IOM country offices to engage actively and constructively with governments and relevant stakeholders. Importantly, IOM country offices have helped promote capacity building on migration and raise awareness on the linkage between migration and national development, all of which have helped to ensure the implementation of more effective measures, plans and policy to manage migration. While these have helped address such problems as forced labour, human trafficking or people smuggling, among others, there continues to be a need to create decent jobs for migrants, not only in countries of destination, but also countries of origin, in order to avoid economically forced migration. The importance of shared responsibility of all stakeholders in order to enhance living and job conditions of migrants should

therefore be highlighted, including through skills training, capacity-building measures, labour protection, as well as fair and effective recruitment system.

Chairperson,

Next year, the international community will adopt three strategic documents for the years to come, namely, the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the global agreement on climate change. The year 2015 therefore presents us with a unique opportunity to ensure coherence and alignment across policies, practices and partnerships for implementation of these concurrent post-2015 processes, as well as the World Humanitarian Summit to be held in 2016 in Turkey.

Here, Thailand appreciates IOM's commitment and active engagement in the discussion of various Post-2015 processes. We are pleased to note that migration, especially migrant workers and women migrants, has been reflected in the outcome of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. We are of the view that respect for and protection of human rights of migrants are key priorities in managing orderly and safe migration in a sustainable manner and that international migration should be adequately reflected in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Apart from what has already been included in the SDGs, a variety of views concerning the appropriate protection and participation of at-risk groups, including migrants, in times of disaster have also been consolidated in the current draft of the Post-2015 Framework on DRR. The discussion on displacement and migration due to slow-onset disaster or climate change is also ongoing.

On our part, Thailand attaches importance to promoting resilience and reducing risks faced by communities vulnerable to disasters and therefore appreciates IOM's new projects on the ground as mentioned in the Director-General's report.

Chairperson,

I wish to conclude by reiterating Thailand's commitment to constructively cooperate with you and the Director-General in promoting the work of the IOM in the coming years as well as in years to come .

I thank you.

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