

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Council

105th Session

Statement delivered by Ambassador Nikola Dimitrov, The Hague Institute for Global Justice

Mr. Chairperson, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I bring you warmest greetings from The Hague and from the President of The Hague Institute for Global Justice, Dr. Abiodun Williams, who is unable to join this important meeting today due to other pressing engagements. For The Hague Institute, the 105th Session of the Council marks a very special occasion, for it follows your decision to accept our formal application to become an observer of the IOM. We thank you for this.

Dedicated to addressing core problems in the field of global security, peace and justice, The Hague Institute combines innovative research from various disciplines with a mandate to convene and train experts. In so doing, we generate fresh perspectives that will lead to feasible and effective steps towards solving current and future global challenges. International migration is one such global challenge, which requires significant attention and consideration.

At The Hague Institute, migration is across-cutting research theme for our three programs: *Conflict Prevention, Rule of Law and Global Governance*. We are currently working on various projects which seek to deepen understanding of global migration, thereby allowing policy-makers to better reap its benefits and better address its challenges.

Last December, for example, we organized a roundtable on *Irregular Migration and Global Justice*. The roundtable discussed a framework for promoting the fundamental rights of irregular migrants in their destination countries. As is our custom at The Hague Institute, this roundtable led to the publication of a policy brief on the topic, a few copies of which I have brought today for the reference of interested colleagues.

One major ongoing project – a joint effort of The Hague Institute and the Stimson Centre in Washington DC – is a Commission on Global Security, Justice and Governance, which also seeks to address migration issues as part of a wider effort on the reform of global governance. Environmentally induced migration is one of the themes which the Commissioners will be addressing and on which they will propose reform ideas ahead of the 2015 World Summit.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Nigerian Foreign Minister Prof. Ibrahim Gambari are co-chairs of the Commission. We hope to share the major outcomes of the Commission's work with you at the next Session of the Council.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as long as technological advancements, climate change and economic inequality continue to remain major sources of migration, our responsibility to do all we can to advance the rights of migrants continues whilst working together with countries of origin, transition and destination to promote national social and economic security.

At The Hague Institute, we have recognized that any effort to address international questions of peace, security and justice, cannot fail to consider migration as a critical global challenge. It is for this reason that we are so pleased to expand our collaboration with the IOM, and I look forward to the dialogue here today, as well as in the years to come.