

UK STATEMENT AT IOM COUNCIL 2014

Thank you Mr Chairman,

Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

We welcome the opportunity to take the floor at this 105th session of the IOM Council and we join others in welcoming Samoa who have just become a new member of the organisation.

^{W2}
I would like to extend our appreciation to the Director-General for his continued strong leadership of the Organisation. The clear direction he has set is reflected in the hard work and dedication shown by IOM staff, many of whom are working in difficult and dangerous places around the World. In this regard, ^{W2} I would like to recognise at the outset the particularly courageous part played by IOM staff in tackling the terrible outbreak of Ebola in West Africa.

The UK Government enjoys close and fruitful cooperation with IOM in the successful delivery of a range of migration-related projects. We work together on these in many locations and are especially grateful to IOM colleagues for their valuable contribution. We look forward to continuing this excellent relationship in the future.

Mr Chairman

The UK commends IOM for the important role it has played in a wide variety of humanitarian contexts this year. 2014 has been a particularly challenging year for humanitarian response, with four concurrent 'Level three' crises, in Syria, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Iraq as well as the Ebola crisis and other emergencies. The UK is also grateful for IOM's leadership in raising the profile of the issue of sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies and for its participation in the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in London this year.

The UK welcomes IOM's continued progress in implementing the Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF). The UK also acknowledges IOM's continued commitment to strengthening its co-leadership of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM), including investing in training and rapid response mechanisms. IOM's leadership in incorporating Gender Based Violence awareness,

prevention and response into CCCM activities and capacity building is also to be applauded. We welcome IOM's overall objective for engagement with the World Humanitarian Summit of a more effective and efficient humanitarian system.

Whilst acknowledging that there are several useful initiatives underway, the UK would like to continue to see progress in IOM's focus on results and improving monitoring and evaluation so that lessons learned can systematically inform the design of new projects and IOM's overall strategic direction.

Mr Chairman

The huge increase in migratory flows across the Mediterranean is a serious concern and one we need to urgently tackle. This calls for coordination amongst international partners, including IOM. We believe that the only sustainable means of addressing the problem is to take action to prevent migrants from making perilous journeys in the first place. That means taking concrete action in countries of origin and transit, including by providing protection in the region and suitable capacity building measures – roles in which IOM can play a major part.

The UK and IOM have a tradition of good cooperation in the field of migration and border management. For instance, we have always been clear that voluntary return is the preferred option to return and we value IOM's engagement in supporting the UK's reintegration programme. It is important to us to provide migrants with assistance and a dignified return home. We have also worked with IOM alongside some other EU partners to help tackle human trafficking, for example, through the CARE programme.

In the multilateral arena, we value the active and useful contribution which IOM continues to make to the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and the expertise it is able to bring to GFMD's deliberations. This has been important in helping inform debates on the linkages between migration and development, including as we approach international agreement on a new post-2015 framework for development replacing the existing MDGs.

The UK Government enjoys close and fruitful cooperation with IOM in the successful delivery of a range of migration-related projects. We work together on these in many

locations and are especially grateful to IOM colleagues for their valuable contribution. We look forward to continuing this excellent relationship in the future.