



CANADA

The Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations
at Geneva

La Mission permanente du Canada
auprès des Nations Unies
à Genève

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STATEMENT

by

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to the

101st Session of the Council

of the International Organization for Migration
Geneva, 27-30 November 2012

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INTERVENTION

de

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Chef, Section des Affaires humanitaires & migratoires
Mission permanente du Canada auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

à la

101^e Session du Conseil

de l'Organisation internationale pour les Migrations
Genève, le 27-30 novembre 2012

Canadian Statement to the 101st session of the IOM Council

Canada acknowledges with great appreciation the valuable work undertaken by the IOM, which is one of the Government of Canada's key partners, and the foremost international organization devoted to migration. The sheer number of people on the move around the world today demonstrates the need to manage global migration in a coherent and organized manner. In this context, countries will look more and more to the IOM for its expertise and assistance, through both its renowned excellence in migration and also its strength in the field – with a demonstrated nimbleness to quickly, efficiently and successfully mount projects in diverse regions as needed. Canada recognizes the benefits of having an organization that has addressed the issue of migration from a global perspective for now more than 6 decades, and we look forward to continuing our productive work in partnership with the IOM in the years to come.

In particular, from a national perspective, Canada greatly values its close cooperation with the IOM on the delivery of its immigration and refugee programs, on migrant health issues, visa applications, and its Temporary Foreign Worker program, as well as on projects related to crisis response, stabilization and reconstruction.

Not least, we value our cooperation with the IOM on Canada's Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration pilot program, which was implemented in Toronto on June 29, 2012. Through this pilot, the IOM provides participants with travel, pre and post departure counselling, as well as reintegration assistance to each eligible participant upon return to their country of origin. The program is a key component of a broader refugee reform initiative, intended to provide a further mechanism to assist in protecting the integrity of Canada's refugee determination system. The project is progressing smoothly and Canada appreciates the positive working relationship it enjoys with the IOM.

In addition, Canada has partnered on a wide range of capacity building and other projects globally. These range from anti-smuggling and anti-trafficking in persons initiatives -- which are two areas of high interest to Canada - through border management support in South and South East Asia, security sector reforms in Haiti, and assisted voluntary returns in West Africa. Indeed in 2011, Canada funded \$35 million in projects and services with the IOM – up from \$25 million the year before, over and above our assessed contribution.

Internationally, we believe that the IOM's international dialogue on migration was both timely and topical, and welcome that the IOM has followed through with its own operational framework for addressing migrants in crisis situations. We welcome the Framework and the IOM's initiative to address an identified protection gap, that of crisis-related migration (outside of refugees and IDP flows). The IOM is well placed to respond to predominantly migrant crises such as Libya, and to address the protection and humanitarian needs of international migrants. The framework would benefit from additional information with regards to how it will work with other humanitarian partners. In the process of implementation, the IOM should give more precision to its role vis-à-vis other humanitarian players, and the DG's regular report should include evaluation and recommendations to keep it evergreen.

International migration is growing in volume and complexity. It involves mixed flows of regular and irregular movements, along with economic and forced migration (e.g. natural disasters). International migration impacts almost every policy area including economics, demographics, labour, health, security, national identity. Canada also recognizes the importance of looking at linkages between international migration and development.

International, regional and bilateral dialogue and collaboration are increasingly necessary to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities associated with the growth of international migration.

We look forward to having a meaningful discussion at the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in fall 2013 to explore and reinforce the linkages between development and migration. We hope that this discussion will focus on timely and relevant issues that will advance our collective ability to achieve

practical outcomes that will assist us in addressing the migration challenges we face. Canada would like to ensure that the right actors, such as the IOM, are engaged in this dialogue in a meaningful way.

Canada calls on the IOM to engage actively in the debate leading up to the High Level Dialogue and hopes that Member States will work together to support the Organization's experience and expertise being taken into account in the preparations and proceedings of the HLD. Canada would like to see the extensive knowledge and expertise of the IOM, as the lead global agency on migration, appropriately recognized and factored into any outcomes of the HLD.

Canada is happy to participate in the Friends of the Council. We are pleased to associate ourselves with the draft decision regarding IOM's participation in the HLD, developed by the Friends of the Council.

Canada would encourage Member States and the IOM to consider how the Global Migration Group can be usefully strengthened so that it functions to achieve the purpose for which it was originally created. Canada supports the leadership role for the IOM in the GMG, set out in the document MC/2353, *IOM IN THE LEAD-UP TO THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT*. Canada would like to ensure that the GMG is able to function effectively to achieve its objective of inter-agency coordination on migration with the IOM. We note with interest IOM's offer to act as secretariat to the GMG and will further consider this proposal. We would be interested to know how the IOM would keep this "no-cost" and to hear the details on how the secretariat would function under its leadership. We will be attentive to the financial and institutional implications of establishing a GMG secretariat.

We also note the Director General's report to the Council includes a proposal that a review be initiated of the relationship between the IOM and the UN. Canada welcomes this suggestion. We hope that such process will lead to the IOM being recognized for its expertise in migration by the UN Secretariat, its agencies and affiliates, as well as creating the synergy for the UN at large to benefit from the IOM's knowledge, experience and leadership on migration.

Considering the ongoing global financial crisis, Canada appreciates that the assessed contributions for member states have remained at zero nominal growth for three years in a row. We recognize this policy as an example of excellence in financial management and commend Ambassador Swing for continuing to put forward this policy. We welcome Ambassador Swing's highlighting of the risks related to a continued zero nominal growth policy, and stress the concomitant need for risk management. The merits and viability of alternative sources of funding should also continue to be identified.

In sum, and drawing on the themes presented by the Director General in his report, IOM should be pleased that it can claim more milestones than stumbling stones. Reforms around the "3 Ps" of Proprietorship, Partnership and Profession have helped to well-position the Organization at this seminal time for migration questions. Combining a demonstrable excellence on migration issues with a good record of project implementation globally, IOM will continue to be a key partner for Canada and the world.