

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Krerkpan Roekchamnong, Ambassador,
Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Thailand
to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva
on behalf of a group of members of the Human Security Network (HSN)**

106th Session of the IOM Council
27 November 2015 15.00-17.00 hrs.

Chairperson,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the following members of the Human Security Network: Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Mali, Norway, Panama, Slovenia, Switzerland, and my own country, Thailand, with South Africa as an observer. The Human Security Network is an informal group of States that promotes the integration of the human security approach in policies and programmes at international, regional, and national levels.
2. I would like to congratulate the Bureau for the skillful coordination that led to another successful session of the IOM Council. I would also like to applaud the initiative of the Director General and his team for organizing 3 timely and well-themed discussion panels to find a better way to manage migration in the context of today's challenges and opportunities based on a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder approach within the framework of migration management.
3. Migration management has quickly become a global challenge. Today, approximately 972 million people live outside their place of origin with some 232 million migrating internationally. These trends are characterized by a mixed flow of migrants. Some are in search of protection and security while others seek better lives and employment opportunities—further compounding the challenges. In this sense, migration governance has quickly become a global challenge. In this scenario the local communities play a key role. Through these spaces it is possible to facilitate social inclusion of immigrants, by developing reception, shelter and support policies to ensure social cohesion and intercultural harmony.
4. The phenomenon is often seen by some transit and destination countries as a security threat while in fact, if managed properly, migrants can play an important part in contributing to the socio-economic development of countries of origin, transit and destination. We need to do more to promote this viewpoint and change the migration discourse in what the IOM Director General says best—from a problem to be solved to a reality to be managed, focusing on protecting the safety of migrants and their human rights.

Chairperson,

5. We strongly believe that the promotion of human security of migrants as well as of the local population in countries of origin, transit and destination is of key importance from a universal human rights approach. We also need to ensure that the causes and reasons for migration are addressed and discussed, improved socio-economic opportunities are available in countries of origin, international legal obligations including human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law are respected and laws are effectively enforced in transit and destination countries. This would reduce the risks, such as exploitation through human trafficking, forced labour and poor working conditions and challenges relating to access to education, healthcare and justice, that vulnerable groups including migrants face.

6. This year, the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development consisting of 17 Goals and 169 targets. We commend IOM's active engagement and contribution that led to the setting of these goals. We are pleased that issues related to migration and migrants are reflected in many of the targets—from health in targets 3c and 3d, to education in target 4b, to protection of migrant workers in target 8.8—just to name a few.

7. But this is just the beginning. We would like to encourage member states to take the human security and the management of international migration and mobility approach into account when working towards the implementation of these goals and targets, and to consider these issues in their respective sectoral-policies in order to ensure coherence and a well-managed migration policy. We call on all stakeholders both at national and international levels to work together to overcome these challenges, in the spirit of shared responsibility, to ensure a truly inclusive agenda.

8. I thank you.
