



NEW ZEALAND

**106th SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION COUNCIL**

**STATEMENT BY
MEREDITH DAVIS**

**GENEVA
November 2015**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

New Zealand Government



Statement to the IOM Council

Geneva

26 November 2015

Tena koutou, Tena koutou katoa

Greetings to you, greetings to you all

Director General, fellow delegates and colleagues, I speak on behalf of the New Zealand Government.

We would like to acknowledge and applaud the Director General for his continued sound management of the IOM. We recognise the positive and constructive progress the IOM has made as an organisation over the course of this year, in particular managing the human phenomenon of migration and migrant integration in our increasingly multi-ethnic and mobile world.

We also acknowledge the difficult environment in which the IOM is operating. The challenges posed by multiple and protracted armed conflicts giving rise to large numbers of people movements across borders, particularly the Syrian refugee crisis, are enormous. We recognise that the IOM is continuing to respond to these international challenges, while working to ensure it continues to operate effectively. We welcome the Resolution on IOM-UN Relations, and emphasise the importance of the IOM retaining its essential attributes of responsiveness, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and independence. We look forward to the progression of this work.

We would like to congratulate the IOM on the launch its flagship "World Migration Report 2015 – Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility". This is an important topic that focuses on how migration and migrants are shaping cities and how the life of migrants is shaped by cities, their people, organisations and rules.

New Zealand has a long tradition of welcoming and supporting migrants. We are a country whose history is built on migration. Immigration helps to build a stronger economy and create jobs by encouraging innovation, deepening our links with international markets and providing the skills and capital we need for growth.

While we are tailoring our immigration settings to optimise its contribution to the economy, New Zealand is mindful of being part of a global community with international and regional responsibilities. We recognise that migrants and refugees enrich our communities and cities and are valuable to our already diverse nation. In our largest city, Auckland, around 40 per cent of the population are born outside of New Zealand.

New Zealand's total humanitarian contribution to the Syria regional crisis is NZ\$20 million. Our support has helped build schools, deliver basic education and skills training, provide health services and was channelled through the UN system, the International Committee of the Red Cross, New Zealand NGOs and host Governments. In addition, we will welcome an additional 750 Syrian refugees over the next two and a half years in response to the ongoing conflict in Syria. The New Zealand Government is using its membership of the United Nations Security Council to call for a political solution and improve the humanitarian situation on the ground

in Syria, and we continue to urge all members to work together to resolve the conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa.

Against this backdrop, New Zealand welcomes the ambition contained in the Sustainable Development Goals agreed this year. As a Pacific country that places a high priority on the needs of small island developing states, New Zealand regards the achievement of the SDGs as a matter of fundamental importance. Our focus is on our neighbourhood - the Pacific, where 60% of our development budget is spent. Along with special categories for immigration, New Zealand initiatives to support development in the Pacific include a world class circular migration programme and capability building to strengthen Pacific countries' immigration and border systems.

Director General, I will conclude by reinforcing New Zealand's support for the IOM's work, and offering sincere thanks for its efforts. We look forward to a strong, continued relationship for many years to come.

Nga mihi rawa atu

Many thanks.

Thank you