

Slovak Republic
Statement
106th session of the IOM Council
27. November 2015

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

1. We meet here at the Council again to discuss the functioning of the IOM as well as the current development in the field of migration during the last year. This year proved again how significant is the role and the mandate of the IOM even after the 64 years of its existence.
2. We have already heard earlier in the statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States, how much efforts and resources the European countries and institutions invest in saving lives, ensuring protection and fighting organised crime, with the aim to alleviate the tragic consequences of the current displacement movements.

Mr. Director General,

3. Slovakia takes active part in these common European efforts, including the commitment to provide financial resources dedicated to support countries of origin and transit in a spirit of shared responsibility.
4. In addition to substantive resources provided by Slovakia to both Trust Funds for Syria and for Africa, as well as to other partners such as World Food Programme, UNHCR, and UNICEF, it is a great pleasure for me to inform about the intention of my government to provide substantial additional financial support to IOM in the amount of 400.000 EUR.

Mr. Director General,

5. Forced displacement movements, and their root causes, can be truly solved only where they occur. This fundamental understanding should be clear and present also in the current narrative.
6. In this sense, it must be clear that Europe is neither the reason of the current crisis nor the only solution to it. There are only global solutions in partnership with states from the regions concerned.
7. Fundamental principles of respect for human rights and humanitarian principles as well as refugee law must be upheld. At the same time, effective policies of return, as well as security aspects of migration need to be taken into account. In the current world, no events occur in isolation. Therefore, we need comprehensive approach to take into account all opportunities and challenges migration brings.

Mr. Director General,

8. We commend the IOM under your leadership for its demonstrated ability to act quickly and effectively in complex humanitarian emergencies, especially with focus on the most vulnerable persons – something that has been always in the centre of my country's approach.
9. I take this opportunity to highlight the satisfaction of my Government with the quality of the long-lasting cooperation between the IOM and Slovakia at all levels. In particular we value the quality of collaboration with the IOM Office in Slovakia within the project of the Emergency Transit Centre, through which already hundreds of vulnerable persons from all around the globe could find safe haven by means of resettlement. I have the pleasure to confirm the intention of my Government to continue in this fruitful cooperation.
10. In this context, I would like to particularly appreciate IOM's responsiveness, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and independence - qualities which make IOM an indispensable partner. To put it shortly: IOM makes things happen.

Mr. Director General,

11. I want to assure you that Slovakia supports the role of IOM as the global lead agency with its unique expertise and field experience in the domain of migration and human mobility. We see a strong role for the IOM not only in the humanitarian field of protection, resettlement and returns, but also within the 2030 development agenda, which clearly calls for "orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility". In this sense we fully support the IOM in its endeavour to have systematic access to all relevant frameworks and bodies on the global or local level.
12. To conclude, we look forward to seeing IOM to continue to play this relevant role in the future.

Thank you.