

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION
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GENERAL DEBATE
Statement of the European Union and its Member States

- I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.
- It is a great honour to speak on the very day of the 65th anniversary of this organisation that was born in Europe – in Brussels – as the "*Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe*". As other international organisations, IOM has developed with the globalisation of issues; and unfortunately in the most recent years, the multiplication of displacement crises, notably due to conflicts. While we share the satisfaction of witnessing a well-managed, steadily growing organisation, we cannot ignore that this development is also a sign of the unresolved challenges of the world.
- In this respect, 2016 is ending as it started with migration, including forced displacement, as a defining feature and major political priority. Greater global awareness of this reality is often combined with a profound misunderstanding of the dynamics at stake; the complexity of which resist simplified explanations. Managing migration is more than ever a challenge and a necessity. It is a global responsibility, which calls for collective commitments and solutions. The management of mixed migratory flows requires countries of origin, initial reception, transit and destination to forge genuine partnerships, on the basis of enhanced mutual support and solidarity, and for a number of situations it calls for equitable and balanced responsibility-sharing within the international community.
- Two important signs that a collective commitment to responding to these challenges is developing were the formal integration of IOM in the United Nations as the lead agency, and the General Assembly Summit of September. Developing the Global Compact on Migration is the next opportunity, although this will not be easy. For the European Union and its Member States, the elaboration of the Global compact should be a State-led process. However, ensuring that we make the negotiations and the Compact a success requires an open, participatory and inclusive process.
- As the EU and its Member States had the opportunity to explain last week to the co-facilitators of the modalities resolution, such un-precedented process requires all relevant expertise and experience to be taken into account. The negotiations need to be well informed and contribute, through a first, broad phase of comprehensive inclusive consultations to a second phase of effective political negotiation. A huge part of the expertise on those issues lies in Geneva –Member States, represented by their diplomatic missions, international organisations, civil society including NGOs, trade unions and private sector. It will be essential to use this expertise, not only during an initial discussion but throughout the whole process. The EU considers that existing mechanisms and institutions should be used to all possible extent for designing the Global Compact on Migration.
- We also reiterate our support for a strong role of the IOM in the process. The IOM is indeed the lead agency on migration, with a truly global mandate and operational and policy expertise in the field of migration. In that context, IOM and its governing bodies have a specific role to play.

- The EU is committed to contribute with all global partners to developing the future Global Compact on Migration. We consider that a number of regional and cross-regional events relevant for Europe and its neighbourhood, notably those with a strong migration partnership approach, could be mentioned as these will deliver a valuable input to the Global Compact. The policies and partnerships implemented by the EU over the years, particularly those that were designed as the external dimension of the European Agenda on Migration, are examples of modern and effective policies. In turn, our policies can be further improved by a greater cooperation with other States, international organisations and the civil society.
- IOM remains for the EU a crucial partner as the global lead agency for international migration and an essential actor for addressing global migration and mobility challenges. We commend the level of engagement and dedication whereby the IOM continues to contribute tirelessly to address the current global migration and refugee crises, including those affecting more directly Europe and its neighbourhood, and to improve the management of mixed migratory flows. IOM can benefit from significant financial support from the EU and its Member States, which are together the second largest contributor to the operational budget of a steadily developing organisation. The EU also cooperates closely with the IOM in the field of humanitarian assistance to all vulnerable categories of people on the move.
- The EU encourages IOM to continue developing its expertise and operational agility in close coordination with its members and donors.