

**COUNCIL OF THE
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Statement by H.E. Ms. Terhi Hakala

Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations and Other International Organisations

Thank you Chair,

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to start by congratulating the Director General for his leadership and commitment in working with migration issues. Finland greatly appreciates the personal input and commitment of the Director General and the whole IOM staff to address today's multifaceted migration challenges. As emphasized during the recent visit of the DG Swing to Helsinki, the cooperation between Finland and IOM is excellent and solidly established.

We are also thankful for the IOM Helsinki office for the good cooperation in many areas - for example on the actions against human trafficking. This co-operation has covered many different dimensions from the spreading knowledge of trafficking to wider public to training key professionals to outreach trafficking victims.

IOM's work and assistance in the process of Finland's annual resettlement programme is also worth of special mentioning. In this regard, among other things, IOM assists refugees to integrate into their new communities. Tailored cultural orientations courses are coordinated by IOM Helsinki which is highly appreciated by the Finnish counterparts.

A part of Finland's support to IOM is channeled to engage, enable and empower transnational communities as agents for development (so-called 3Es strategy). One objective is to harness the expertise of the Somali diaspora to rebuild and develop Somalia. In cooperation with IOM Helsinki, Somali nursing students have been sent from Helsinki Diakonia College for training at Hargeisa Group Hospital in Somalia.

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Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the organization for two important milestones achieved this year. Firstly, the organisation has reached a ripe old age of 65. While achieving this, it has transformed to a truly global organisation addressing a wide spectrum of different dimension of migration. New situations have demanded advanced tools e.g. new migration-related technology (like Displacement Tracking Matrix and Community Response Map) that IOM has developed. This and other achievements during the past 65 year deserve to be credited.

Secondly, the organization has systematically developed its relationship with the UN by becoming at first a permanent observer in the General Assembly (1992), then signing a formal cooperation agreement with the UN (1996) and later updating their relationship through a memorandum of understanding (2013).

In September this year, IOM took yet another important step by becoming a related agency of the United Nations in the UN high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants. As agreed in the New York Declaration, we are about to start the process leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018. Finland believes that IOM, as the leading international organization on migration and with extensive experience and expertise in migration issues, should play a leading role in this process.

Thank you chair