

Slovak Republic
Statement at the 107th Session of the IOM Council
5 - 8 December 2016

- Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU and its Member States.
- Allow me on behalf of the Slovak Republic to congratulate IOM on its 65th anniversary. During these 65 years the organisation has demonstrated its leading role in the field of migration, and together with its steadily-growing membership, IOM is step-by-step becoming universal. This growth proves the attractiveness and great qualities of IOM that are appreciated by many countries.
- I take this opportunity to congratulate on another anniversary: that of 20 years of cooperation between Slovakia and IOM. Slovakia has enjoyed a very fruitful, well-established and also steadily-growing cooperation with IOM.
- This cooperation proved to be particularly useful during the current semester of the mandate of Slovakia holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In this context, we highly appreciate the two visits of the Director General in Slovakia. At the same time we are thankful to IOM for providing recommendations to the Slovak EU Presidency, and we appreciate the close contact maintained at all levels here in Geneva, as well as the Capital and Brussels.

Mr. Director General,

- I would like to add yet another congratulation to IOM on obtaining the status of related agency of the United Nations. Slovakia supported this move as very timely and logical.
- At the same time we believe IOM will preserve its qualities of effectiveness, responsiveness, cost-efficiency and independence, which make it an indispensable and reliable partner today, a partner who makes things happen.
- In particular, we appreciate transparency of IOM and the mutual trust towards its membership, which confirms the principle of state-ownership of this organisation.

- This year Slovakia has provided a total amount of over 1 mil. EUR of voluntary financial contributions to IOM activities in the field. It is my pleasure to confirm, that further financial support is foreseen in the upcoming years.
- On top of that, we continue enjoying the cooperation with IOM on the Emergency Transit Centre in Humenné, through which so far more than 1000 vulnerable persons could find safe refuge by means of international resettlement.

Mr. Director General,

- We welcome the agreement achieved on the New York Declaration this year in September including its Annex 2 leading to the adoption of a Global Compact for safe, regular and orderly migration in 2018. We perceive the upcoming negotiations on the Global Compact as the defining moment not only for the future global agenda on migration, but also for the future of IOM in the global architecture.
- In this regard, we support IOM's strong and leading role in this process as the organisation with a unique mandate and expertise in the field of global migration, including the option of IOM in the role of the Secretary General of the intergovernmental negotiations. We look forward to working with IOM during the next 2 years on the compact.
- We believe that along this process IOM will use this trust mandated to it by the Member States in helping all of us to address the challenges ahead: in particular to better understand the root causes and drivers of migration and forced displacement, and strengthen evidence-based approach in our discussions, based on reliable data and analysis.
- IOM is best positioned to provide necessary support to arrive to our common goal of better management of migration.
