



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Statement on behalf of the IPU

delivered by Ambassador Anda Filip, IPU Director for Member
Parliaments and External Relations,

on the occasion of the 107th Council of the IOM (5 December 2016)

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

It is both an honour and a pleasure for me to address this distinguished IOM Council on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the world organization of national parliaments. On behalf of the IPU President, Secretary General and our member Parliaments, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the growing cooperation between the IPU and the International Organization for Migration. It is with great satisfaction that today we join the IOM family as an observer organization.

Please allow me also pay tribute to Director General William Lacy Swing, who for many years has been a good friend to the IPU. He has been actively engaging with parliaments and parliamentarians, and involving them in various IOM initiatives, including policy dialogues and relevant trainings. In October of last year, Director General Swing brought a very direct and substantive contribution to the 133th IPU Assembly as it was examining – as the main theme of its general debate - the very topical issue of *The moral and economic imperative for a smarter, fairer and more humane migration*.

The outcome of that general debate - <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/133/gen-debate.htm> - which saw the active engagement of high-level parliamentary delegations from 135 countries and the main regional and other parliamentary organizations, provides a series of very specific commitments and recommendations for parliamentary action to 1/ build and implement protective legal frameworks, 2/ ensure fairness, non-discrimination and respect for the human rights of migrants, and 3/ work for social cohesion, and peaceful and inclusive societies. We are very much looking forward to engaging closely with the IOM in following up on this very important political declaration.

There are other tools that can help us in our work, such as the new practical Guide for parliamentarians on *Migration, human rights and governance*. Produced at the end of last year in cooperation with our UN partners, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the ILO, it has really proven to be very useful to parliaments as they seek to address the opportunities and challenges that migration presents in their respective countries. There has actually been such a high demand for this Guide that we need to issue a reprint in the English language (copies in French and Spanish available at the back of the room).

A last point that I would make has to do with the importance of our partnership moving ahead. I think that there is no doubt in anybody's mind that migration, as well as the other main issues on the international agenda – be they climate change, sustainable development or nuclear disarmament – can only be tackled effectively with the support of parliamentarians who are well informed and fully engaged.

For close to twenty years now, the IPU has been developing a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations. This seeks to accompany the main UN processes by a parliamentary component: on the one hand, bringing the voice and perspectives of parliamentarians to UN deliberations on the main global issues of our time, and secondly helping to mainstream global commitments into the day to day work of national parliaments. Earlier this year, the IPU and UN Secretaries General signed a new and robust Cooperation Agreement, which will guide our work in the years to come.

On July 25th, the UN General Assembly adopted a number of important resolutions. One was the Resolution by which the IOM formally becomes a related organization to the UN. That same day, the UN General Assembly also adopted its biennial consensus Resolution on *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU*. For the first time, that Resolution specifically calls on closer cooperation in “facilitating the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”.

We have a lot of important work ahead of us, and we very much look forward to a qualitatively new partnership with the IOM as we embark on this journey together.

Thank you for your attention.