

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

108th Council, November 28 to December 1, 2017

Statement on behalf of the Government of Canada

Check against delivery - Vérifier à l'audition

Thank you Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to congratulate the International Organization for Migration on the occasion of the first anniversary of the IOM taking its place as the United Nations Migration Agency. The IOM is truly the leading international organization on migration, and its ability to strengthen coordination and collaboration within the United Nations helps States address shared migration challenges and opportunities.

Today, I will focus my comments on the development of the Global Compact on Migration. Canada is committed to continue cooperating closely with the international community to develop a Compact that is practical, gender-responsive, and action-oriented, and that delivers globally on migration related Agenda 2030 commitments and contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. More specifically, achieving target 10.7 is expected to reduce inequality within and among countries by facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Mr. Chair,

Canada would like to acknowledge IOM's work in supporting the development of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Canada is delighted that a Canadian, Louise Arbour, is UN Special Representative to the Secretary General (SRSG) for international migration. The IOM's support to the SRSG, as mandated in the New York Declaration, has been extremely helpful in assisting the Office of the SRSG to deliver on her crucial mandate at this challenging time in the history of global migration. The IOM has also assisted in preparing many thematic papers, has helped in the organization of multi-stakeholder consultations, and provided policy and technical expertise to the UN regional economic commissions' regional consultations.

The Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration presents an opportunity to achieve consensus on concrete actions in order to bring greater coherence and coordination to international migration. As one of its priorities for the Compact, Canada has put forward the promotion of comprehensive national migration systems. We would like to see included in the Compact a commitment by States to strengthen their national migration systems, in particular by creating or improving existing regular migration pathways. We believe that implementing the change like this in the national context should be done through national action plans that identify gaps and priorities to be addressed in State's migration system and outline commitments for how State will do so. Canada believes that this is one of the cornerstones to the effective and meaningful

implementation of the Compact as it provides a means for states to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

Mr. Chair,

As we move forward, Canada supports a global migration structure that would bring coordination and coherence to the many players who work on migration issues. Canada believes that the IOM is well placed to have a lead role, in coordination and collaboration with other UN organizations, in promoting policy development, sharing best practices between member states, and strengthening collaboration within the UN family.

Further, Canada believes that the Compact should consider existing mechanisms that could provide a forum for follow-up meetings and review. We would support a discussion among member states on how best to streamline the international migration work at many fora and to potentially identify one integrated forum ideally coordinated by the IOM in order to ensure coherence.

Finally, the world is currently witnessing levels of migration that we have not seen before. There are more than 244 million people on the move and we all know that more migration is inevitable. The majority of people continue to move through regular channels, however the rising levels of irregular migration are contributing to a growing negative rhetoric towards migration in general. We now have a rare window to achieve political consensus and to commit to a sound and practical international migration governance. The Global Compact for safe, orderly regular migration is an opportunity that benefits everyone.

Thank you.