

108th IOM Council Session: General Debate - GER Statement

Chairperson, Director General, distinguished members and observers of the Council,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU on behalf of its Member States.

At the outset, we would like to thank Ambassador Quinn for his dedication and commitment as Chairperson of the Council Bureau in the past year, and welcome Ambassador Maurás Perez, who will certainly lead our discussions in an equally forward-looking manner.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Cuba and the Cook Islands as new IOM Member States, joining the organization at this critical juncture for global migration governance.

Let me first thank the Director-General for his continued leadership in navigating the IOM through a year which was characterized by opportunities and challenges alike, as highlighted by the DG in yesterday's report. IOM's entry into the UN system clearly marked a turning point for the organization, permitting it to play an important role in the consultation phase for a Global Compact for migration in 2017. Being the global lead agency on migration, IOM would be well positioned to render institutional support and specialist advice to the implementation of the Compact, which we expect to be concluded by July and adopted before the end of 2018.

Germany welcomes the international community's approach to managing migration globally – an approach grounded in a positive, human-rights based narrative, assuming that migration – if occurring in a safe, orderly and regular manner – is beneficial for migrants as well as their countries of origin, transit and destination.

While growth has been an essential characteristic of the organization itself, current displacement trends render a joint commitment towards the achievement of the Agenda 2030, and SDG 10.7 in particular, ever more important.

As co-chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, we have put a special emphasis on multi-stakeholder cooperation, given that both civil society and the private sector are instrumental in transferring global

approaches to the regional and local level. In light of mixed migration flows we particularly appreciate IOM's close cooperation with UNHCR based on the proven and successful division of labour between the two organizations, ensuring that both organizations can effectively fulfil their distinct mandates.

Germany values IOM as a highly flexible, operational and responsive organization, which continues to assist migrants in often fragile and conflict-prone contexts. The diversity of projects implemented within the framework of our cooperation – from community stabilization in Iraq, to the facilitation of family reunification for Syrian refugees, information campaigns in Libya and the Sahel Region as well as assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) – signifies the richness of IOMs technical and policy expertise worldwide.

We welcome IOM's important contribution to the humanitarian system and particularly appreciate IOM's access in the Mosul context and the valuable information delivered through the Displacement Tracking Matrix. We trust that IOM will deliver any humanitarian assistance in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

Germany remains committed to IOMs mandate as lead migration agency and will support the organization in strengthening international cooperation and governance in this area.