

IOM Council

108th session

28 November – 1 December 2017

General debate

Statement by Latvia

Thank you Madame Chairperson.

Mr Director-General, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My delegation would like to congratulate the new chair of the Council, Ambassador Ms Maurás, and other members of the Bureau with the election. We are looking forward to working with you. My delegation also would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members of the IOM and new observer organizations to this session of the Council.

Madame Chairperson,

Latvia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and would like to make some additional remarks in national capacity.

Mr Director – General,

Latvia would like to thank you for the report and commend you for your dedicated leadership of the Organization in its work in the facilitation the orderly and humane management of migration.

IOM's role will remain critical, as migration challenges - current and new ones - will continue to persist. The Organization's effective response to the new challenges, proper identification, consideration and addressing of the needs of migrants as well as effective delivery of services will continue to be of great importance.

Latvia highly appreciates the operational work carried out by the Organization worldwide. On behalf of the Government of Latvia, I would like to express our gratitude for the Organization's support for the effective and sustainable voluntary return and reintegration assistance provided to irregular migrants residing or arriving in Latvia; as well as support in the resettlement of refugees from Turkey and the relocation from Italy and Greece.

Latvia acknowledges growing need for the systematic accumulation of the knowledge, lessons learned and experience IOM gains from its operational activities. In this regard, we would see the development of the Organizations' policy expertise within the Organization's core structure thus ensuring its coherence and sustainability.

Madame Chairperson,

This year IOM celebrates the first anniversary as the United Nations' related agency. We welcome the efforts made at strengthening coordination and collaboration between both organizations. Nevertheless, we would like to encourage the Organization to explore all avenues that would contribute to the strengthening of the essential elements of the Organization - responsiveness, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and independence.

Madame Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Latvia's appreciation and support for the work of the IOM.

I thank you.