



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

STATEMENT BY UNODC TO THE 108th SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL REGARDING APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS

Excellencies,

Distinguished Council Members

Ladies and Gentlemen

Firstly, please allow me to express UNODC's sincere appreciation to you, Director General, and to the Council for having positively considered our application. It is a privilege for UNODC to be accredited with official observer status, and I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations ^{to} our fellow new observers.

UNODC views this status as an opportunity to further enrich the bonds we already share with IOM, through engagement in joint efforts over many years at a technical assistance level and in the inter-agency context. This cooperation was formalized in 2012 through the conclusion of an MoU, and our common interests were once more highlighted when IOM joined the UN system.

Currently, IOM and UNODC cooperate on a number of initiatives including the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, a joint initiative by the EU and UNODC being implemented over four years, in partnership with IOM and UNICEF. We also collaborate through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Global Migration Group.

IOM and UNODC share a mutual desire to address the challenges of migration, but we also share the key priority of partnership. As the guardian of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, UNODC works to support Member States in their efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. However, these are complex issues that demand multi-stakeholder responses, and cannot be addressed by any one actor, function or community alone.

UNODC expresses our sincere appreciation to the IOM for the work being undertaken on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, and underlines our commitment to engage throughout the process. In doing so, we will be continuing to call for an agreement that is rights-based, gender and age-sensitive, ambitious and forward looking, while also complementing existing international normative frameworks to combat transnational organized crime. We also stress the need to draw as many possible responders into this process to shape practical and priority actions on migration for the global compact and beyond.

IOM's programmes and activities in the field of migration are of great interest to UNODC and we are always looking for opportunities to build a closer relationship with your Organization. UNODC is honoured to take our place as an observer at this 108th Session of the IOM Council. Please be assured of our ongoing commitment.

Thank you.