



Statement by Sweden – IOM Council 109th Session 2018

Mr/Ms Chairperson, Director-General, Distinguished delegates

[Sweden aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its Member States.]

Let me begin by thanking Director-General Vitorino for his presentation. With increased international focus on migration, Sweden would like to reiterate its support to IOM under Mr. Vitorino's leadership and commend the organization for its important work at the national, regional and global level.

In line with the previous Director General's affection for alliterations, we would like to highlight three important challenges facing IOM during the coming years: Change, Capacity, and Control.

First, on the topic of Change. The Director-General has taken over IOM in the midst of fundamental changes to the multilateral cooperation on migration. It has been just over two years since the inclusion of IOM into the UN system. It has been a few months since the Secretary General's decision to establish a UN Network on Migration to be coordinated by IOM. And in a few weeks from today, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration will be adopted. Combined, these events will require IOM to change.

Like most other Member States, Sweden believes that IOM needs to continue doing what it does best. That is, assisting Member States in their daily work to manage international migration, assisting migrants themselves, as well as being an important player and partner in the international humanitarian system. However, it is possible to preserve the essence of IOM, and at the same time support the development of core features. With said changes taking place, IOM needs to upgrade its performance management systems and policy capabilities, increase the internal coordination as well as the cooperation with other relevant UN organizations such as UNHCR and ILO, to name a few.

This leads me to Capacity. It is crucial that UN organizations such as IOM have access to predictable, flexible and needs-based funding. Such funding supports the capacity needed to face the changes mentioned. Sweden strongly believes that unearmarked or softly earmarked core contributions lead to greater efficiency of individual organisations as well as the system at large. This is in line with the commitments made in the Grand Bargain. Flexible funding facilitates swifter response to urgent needs and reduces the amount of resources spent on grant-specific administration, notably procurement and reporting.

In order to assist IOM in building its capacity during this transformative period, Sweden provided roughly 7.2 million USD in softly earmarked core contributions in 2018. Our intention is to continue the support next year. But we cannot do it alone. We therefore encourage more Member States to provide IOM with core funding. Together, we can contribute not only to IOM's but also to the global community's growing needs related to a responsible migration management.

This finally brings me to Control. With new responsibilities comes a need for increased accountability. It is of utmost importance that IOM continues working towards strengthening core control features such as result-based management, evaluation, and risk supervision, to name a few. A lot has already been done. Sweden welcomes IOM's increased focus on risk management. Being aware of risks is crucial, not least considering the organization's exceptional growth during the past decade. The important work done by the Office of the Inspector General cannot be overstated in this regard. It is crucial that oversight functions have adequate resources and the capacity to perform qualitative investigations in a timely manner.

In this context, we would like to highlight the ongoing MOPAN evaluation assessing the effectiveness of IOM on behalf of 18 donors. The results will be presented early next year. MOPAN will provide IOM with a detailed and valuable assessment of the organization's overall structure and work. We strongly recommend IOM to build on MOPAN's findings when developing an organizational strategy fit for current and future challenges.

Mr./Ms. Chair. Let me conclude by reiterating Sweden's appreciation and support for the important role and work of IOM, and we look forward to continuing our fruitful cooperation.

Thank you!