

Check against delivery.

IOM Council 111th Session 26 to 29 November 2019 Statement of Norway

Chairman,

Let me join other speakers in thanking Director General Vitorino for his introductory remarks, setting the stage for our discussion today.

Norway remains a close and long-standing partner of the IOM. We value your expertise, your competence and your global field presence and flexibility. Thus, we will continue to support you as the role of IOM will become increasingly important in the years ahead.

We have noticed the continued growth of revenues, indicating a growing demand for IOMs services. Such a growth rate causes administrative challenges for the organization, underlying the need for structural reforms the way the Director General has proposed in his strategic visions and in the Internal Governance Framework (IGF).

As a Member State and contributor to programmes as well as core funding, Norway attaches great importance to efficient mechanisms for audit and oversight. We expect IOM to uphold and comply with the highest standards of management, oversight and accountability, and we urge IOM to follow procedures used by other organisations in the UN family as regards updates to member states on these issues. Well functioning accountability systems rely on trust between the responsible governing bodies. The commitment of IOM's top leadership to this matter is essential and expected.

We commend the implementation of the IOM gender Equality Policy 2015-2019, though there is still more to be done before we reach an acceptable gender balance on all levels of the organization. We also like to stress the importance of promoting PSEA. There can be no tolerance for sexual abuse.

We welcome the UN Secretary General's decision to establish a High Level Panel on Internal Displacement, and we look forward to working with the Panel, Member States, IOM and other agencies on this issue.

While strengthening the organisation's global role, including the UN Migration Network and the, it remains crucial that IOM stays true to its traditional core actions and remains a visible actor in the field in accordance with resolution 1309. In this respect, a prominent goal in IOM's new strategy should be to conduct increased capacity building and training in relation to migration management in countries of transit and origin.

Chairman,

The IOM is a key operational partner for Norwegian immigration authorities in the areas of assisted return and reintegration as well as pre-departure assistance for refugees who have been offered resettlement in Norway.

We appreciate the challenge of working in complex contexts. Norway follows a zero tolerance policy regarding corruption. We look forward to engaging in closer dialogue with the IOM Secretariat regarding the streamlining of this policy in contractual terms across IOM programs and projects.

Check against delivery.

Norway is among the Member States that provides IOM with un-earmarked core funding. We urge others to do the same, as this kind of funding provides IOM with a much needed flexibility for organizational improvements. We will also contribute to the MPTF in order to assist Member States in their national implementation of the Global Compact.

We look forward to strengthening our bilateral dialogue, and we wish progress and success for the organization in the years to come.

Thank you.