



Statement by Sweden – IOM Council 110th Session 2019

Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished delegates

Sweden align 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. Sweden commends IOM for its important work at the national, regional and global level. In this context, we would also like to express our highest appreciation for the important, and often difficult work carried out by the Organization's staff, not least through IOM's many humanitarian interventions.

At Council one year ago, Sweden highlighted the need for **Change, Control, and Capacity** with regards to IOM's development. **Change** indicated stronger strategic coherence and policy capabilities. These are qualities needed as IOM takes on new responsibilities under the Global Compact on Migration and the UN Network on Migration. It will also ensure IOM's ability to deepen the important cooperation with other UN-agencies, not least the UNHCR. **Control** referred to the need for strengthened internal administrative procedures considering the Organization's substantial growth. And finally, **Capacity** related to the need for financial reforms given the above-mentioned challenges. A better balance between project financing and unearmarked core funding is needed.

A year has since passed, and we are pleased to note that much of the Director-General's work during 2019 has focused on exactly these issues. With the **Strategic Vision and Internal Governance Framework**, the administration has initiated work aimed at strengthening the Organization's policy capabilities and core functions. Efforts have also been made within the **MIRAC** structure to increase unearmarked funding.

We are supportive of IOM's reform agenda. However, it is important to note that this will **require perseverance** and the management's **continued determination** for many years to come. An illustration of this will be the establishment of a **results-based framework** guiding IOM's future work, a

process which necessitates long-term commitment. Likewise, fundamental organizational structures such as **inspection, investigation, and evaluation** functions must continuously be prioritized. Furthermore, the establishment of **country strategies and programs** will facilitate sustainability and coherence of interventions.

It is important to note that the aim of such efforts is *not* to change the Organization's field-based characteristics. Rather, the goal should be to avoid "**opportunities missed**" due to the lack of well-functioning organizational structures. This also pertains to the proposal to establish a second DDG function with focus on internal governance, which Sweden is supportive of. In short, with a strong foundation in place, IOM will be better positioned to deliver on key migration challenges in humanitarian response, migration and development, and migration management.

IOM is not alone in this work. **Member States** also have an important role to play with regards to the reform agenda, providing guidance and funding to the Organization. With enhanced support as the ultimate goal, Sweden is currently working on the finalization of a **national IOM strategy** which will guide our priorities for collaboration with the Organization during the coming three years. In this context, we would like to mention the results of the **MOPAN evaluation**, assessing the effectiveness of IOM on behalf of 18 donors. We share MOPAN's analysis of IOM, which has informed our national priorities. In light of the continued prominence of international migration on the global agenda, our hope is that this strategy will contribute to the further strengthening of IOM.

Mr. Chairman. 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!