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IOM- COUNCIL 111th Session

24 – 27 November 2020

Agenda Item 11 – General Debate **German Statement**

- Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

- Let me stress, that Germany aligns itself with the European Union statement.

- We started the **German EU Council Presidency** on 1ˢᵗ July with the motto "together for Europe's recovery".

- Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to overshadow our lives and has numerous negative effects - especially in the field of migration, displacement and reintegration.

- The German engagement ranges from short-term measures to sustainable long-term interventions. We aim at mitigating the severe socio-economic consequences for the most vulnerable.

- But one thing is for sure – we as Member States would not be able to overcome the various challenges without the valuable support we have received from IOM and other international organizations.

- IOM's role in preventing the spread of the virus and providing health support for displaced populations and migrants in vulnerable situations is crucial - and we see IOM as a very valuable partner here.

- We also thank IOM for the swift response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan COVID-19. So thank you to all IOM staff, especially those in the field working under pandemic conditions, for maintaining operations and for providing life-saving humanitarian assistance ´

- When the European Commission presented the "**New Pact on Migration and Asylum**" in September, the German Presidency welcomed the Commission's priorities - and the quest for an agreement on a fair and functioning system, with a good balance between responsibility and solidarity.

- The proposals cover all key elements of the European migration and asylum policy; this includes the Common European Asylum System, return, legal migration, border control and management, the external dimension and integration.

- We now want to use the remaining time of the German Presidency to discuss the draft common progress report -

on key elements of a European migration and asylum policy - and the way forward, on which we want to reach an agreement at the Justice and Home Affairs Council in December.

- In parallel to our efforts in advancing the discussions on the New Pact, Germany together with other Member States continues its operational activities in supporting frontier Member States, for example with relocation.
- We are glad that 2,750 people will be relocated from Greece to Germany and several Member States have agreed to relocate unaccompanied minors and families.
- To achieve all these objectives and as it is foreseen in the New Pact on Migration, the German EU Presidency emphasizes that strengthening the external dimension of migration belongs among the priority tasks of the future.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

- Germany has been working successfully with IOM on migration management for decades. Last year, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of our voluntary return programme!
- Germany acknowledges and appreciates IOM's growing and active role as an important partner in the field of conflict prevention and stabilization - which aligns well with IOM's core mandate.

- Already today, cooperation with IOM constitutes an important element of Germany's stabilization approach, especially with regard to community stabilization and community policing.

- Further strategic intensification of cooperation is envisaged in the area of integrated border management, with a focus on West Africa.

- We furthermore value IOM's presence and expertise in particular in contexts with displaced persons, with vulnerable migrants, and where little data is available. This is also reflected in the projects we are already planning with IOM for 2021.

- We are especially proud and honored that the Global Migration Data Analysis Center (GMDC) is based in Berlin on invitation of the German Government.

- Achieving better international migration data and analysis is our shared goal and GMDAC is a reliable and strong partner.

- Supporting the work of the GMDAC has proved to be very fruitful, some of the highlights were

  - o the Second International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS), held in Cairo with support of German Government and

  - o the Creation of the Global Migration data portal (supports by Switzerland, Germany and IOM)

- We thank Director General Antonio Vitorino and IOM in its capacity as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration for their support in preparing and organizing the regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

- We believe it is a crucial framework to enhance international cooperation on migration, including concrete measures for migrants in times of crises.

- Therefore, we remain committed to its principles and are stepping up our efforts in supporting our partner countries in its implementation, including through the UN Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

We see that IOM needs to reform its **budget** to cope with increasing demands. Less than 3 % of the total budget is not enough for the core structure of the organization.

- We are encouraging the organization to present scenarios which would allow Member States, jointly with IOM, to define the most urgent funding priorities and identify the appropriate sources.

- Most likely, we will have to figure out a carefully balanced mix of different sources. We are looking forward to continuing the discussion in the framework of the Working Group on Budget Reform.

- Germany will continue to support IOM in creating modern structures. It is in our own interest to strengthen IOM as a global, professional service provider and an important player in the field of migration management.

- In 2020 the German humanitarian assistance exceeds 2 billion dollars. This contribution – among numerous others - will only bring us closer to sustainable solutions if we manage to successfully address the root causes of migration, which lie in poverty and instability. For this, we need IOM and the dedicated cooperation of all Member States.

- Thank you.