



Statement by Sweden – IOM Council 112th Session 2021

Delivered by: H.E. Ms Anna Jardfelt, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sweden in Geneva

Chair, 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 and by congratulating IOM on its 70th anniversary and on its five years as a member of the UN family. IOM has grown to be an important stakeholder in the global effort to strengthen multilateral cooperation on migration, and continues to be a steadfast provider of support to migrants worldwide.

We commend IOM's critical work in humanitarian crisis situations and appreciate the organization's flexibility and strong on-the-ground presence in new and continuing emergencies around the globe.

During the past few years, Sweden has used this opportunity at IOM Council to advocate for efficiency, institutional coherence, improved policy capacity and reform. We have highlighted the need for organizational reforms aimed at making IOM fit for purpose. In 2021, we have provided IOM with approximately 10 million dollars in flexible core funding, largely aimed at strengthening the Organization's core structure. A continued support for 2022, conditional on parliament approval, is proposed in a Budget Bill.

The pandemic has highlighted the urgency of a strengthened IOM, both structurally and financially. While the past year has been one of many challenges, we are encouraged by the significant steps that have been taken towards internal reform and the achievement of the Internal Governance Framework during the year, including improvements on results-based management.

On budget reform, however, important work remains to be done. Sweden sees the timely conclusion of this work as key, both to ensure more stable financing of core functions and to strengthen IOM's capacity to work with the rest of the UN family.

We share the IOM administrations' vision regarding the need to bring additional costs into the core structure. We believe IOM and its Member States must explore new ways of more equitably sharing the cost of the necessary reforms, and that a revision of assessed contributions likely needs to be a part of the solution, along with increased flexible funding from a broader base of donors.

As a final point, Sweden strongly believes in the need to foster multilateral cooperation towards safe, orderly and regular migration, and to maximize the development benefits of migration. In this regard, we value IOM's important role as coordinator of the UN Migration Network and look forward to engaging in the discussions in the lead up to the International Migration Review Forum next year. In addition to providing IOM with core funding to strengthen the organization's internal and external capacity, Sweden also recently increased its contribution to the Migration Multi Partner Trust Fund, with a view to contribute to the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration and strengthened UN coordination.

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!