

IOM 113th Council - General Debate

- Thank you Chair for giving me the floor. Chair, when I looked through the DG's report of last year and the report on 2021, the world looked completely different. That report mostly dealt with the crisis in Afghanistan. Not even a year on we are now in a totally different situation, with the humanitarian system still grappling with yet another crisis stacked on top of all the existing ones.
- Russia's unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has already had a profound impact on the humanitarian system. We refer to the EU and joint statements to which we align ourselves for a more elaborate expression of our position on this, but let me here just say that no previous recent war has affected the plight of other crises, as well as food security, to this extent.
- And it is exactly in times of crisis that we must work together. We see a rise in irregular migration, worldwide, at the European borders and in the Netherlands. International cooperation is pivotal to manage migration effectively. The Netherlands will continue to strive for a just, humane and effective migration and asylum policy, both within the EU and internationally. In particular, we will strengthen efforts to promote wide-ranging migration partnerships based on equality and mutual interests, both bilaterally and at the EU-level. NL looks forward to work with all parties present here, both States and international organizations, to improve migration governance while safeguarding human rights and protection of migrants. In particular I want to highlight the importance of legal identity for all, including migrants and refugees, and warmly welcome IOM's Institutional Strategy on Legal Identity.
- Chair, with sadness we must once again note that many crises worldwide remain unresolved. This is why we have increased our humanitarian spending this year by almost 20 percent to a new record of 512 mln. Euro. But we cannot rely on humanitarian funding alone, nor can these crises be viewed solely from a humanitarian perspective. Humanitarian and development actors must work together to find durable and efficient solutions. This is also why our development budget

for addressing forced displacement and migration cooperation will more than double over the coming years to a total of 357 mln. Euro annually by 2026.

- Chair, we are doing what we can to meet the growing humanitarian needs across the world and maintain adequate support for all compounding and protracted humanitarian crises. And so is IOM. And in order to do so the budget has again increased by some 16%, nearing the 3 billion mark. Some activities have even grown exponentially, like CASH assistance, which has increased by over 500%.
- With such continuous and even exponential growth, it is crucial that management and oversight keep pace. In the past year we were happy to welcome our two new DDGs and we have seen the organizational restructuring accompanying this change. By this time next year, we would like to have a discussion on how this organizational restructuring has worked out, whether it needs further tweaking and what lessons have been learned.
- In the past year we were also happy to see the successful outcome of the budget reform discussion, providing IOM with an additional 75 mln to strengthen its core. The past year already saw the strengthening of oversight, most notably the Office of the Inspector General. It is important that gains made by the OIG are maintained and in this sense we are worried about continuity, since both the IG and deputy IG will be leaving before the next regular Council.
- Moreover, the Internal Governance Framework report also clearly states that not only OIG, but also the Department of Legal Affairs and the Department of Human Resources need to be adequately funded at considerably higher levels in order for the internal justice system to function adequately. We strongly call on IOM to make sure that this funding is made available and made a priority when allocating budget reform funds.

- Chair, we commend IOM with the good progress made on the IGF and note the main outstanding item now is the Business Transformation. The IGF report states the funding level is critical to its success. We regret this funding has not been included in the budget reform ask and we call IOM to continue to allocate at least 30% of MIRAC to the IGF and the Enterprise Resource Planning.
- We also commend IOM with its IATI score, but we think transparency can still be improved further, especially to the SCPF and the Council, first of all by implementation of RBM in budget and reporting documents and second of all by better drafted decisions and distinguishing between documents for decision, discussion and information. We look forward to discussing these issues further in the Working Group on Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities.
- Chair, a quick word on risk management. Again an issue we attach crucial importance to considering the volatile and fragile situations IOM works in. To be brief, we refer to our SCPF statement on this. We call on IOM to reach compliance with UN standards on this soon and would very much like to engage further with the Chief Risk Officer on IOM's efforts in this regard.
- Chair, overall, the IGF seems to be progressing well, and we look forward to the MOPAN findings in this regard. We also think IOM would benefit from an independent review of the IGF once it has been completed, especially if there is to be some form of continuation of the IGF.
- Chair, in closing, let me get back to where I started, the continuing and compounding crises and another crisis that has not yet been resolved, namely COVID. We underscore the continuing need to make vaccinations available to migrants and we are very much interested in the discussion on the future of mobility. However, health proving is not the only aspect of mobility and if we are talking about the future of mobility, we should do so with a clear 360 degrees approach.
- I thank you Chair.