



# NEW ZEALAND

94<sup>th</sup> Session International Organisation of Migration  
Council

Statement Delivered By

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*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Thank you Chairperson

This year has been a very busy year in the area of migration and immigration at both an international and regional level.

At the international level we have had the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development superbly hosted by Belgium with excellent representation from countries across the world. We will be watching to see how the Forum translates into practical application through linking Migration, IOM's core work, with Development.

We have also seen a High Level Dialogue on the humanitarian situation in Iraq where countries with diverse interests have come together to explore the issues and look at how they can work together going forward.

The theme of migration is becoming an increasingly important global phenomena, no longer confined to sovereignty but also looking at the effect globalisation has on the movement of people and the important role this has in economic growth and social cohesion.

Globalisation alongside the changes to demographics, which many countries will experience, and the continued concerns surrounding security means that immigration is never far from the top of government agendas or political debate.

New Zealand welcomes this year's dialogue on "Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy" and thanks the IOM administration for the considerable work they have put into preparing the sessions we have participated in this week, the workshops during the year and with special thanks for all those involved in the World Migration Report 2008 launched on Tuesday. We look forward to receiving the full report shortly.

The changing global economy has a significant impact on the way in which countries will need to think about migration and we have seen many of these covered in the workshops and in the discussions this week. It will see countries having to work more closely both at a regional and international level to look at the effects of increased people movement and how these can be best managed to benefit all those involved.

New Zealand recognises that immigration has an important role in the economic transformation the Government has underway in New Zealand that will enable the country to maximise the opportunities from increased globalisation and to benefit from those opportunities. This means being able to attract the people New Zealand needs but to keep out those that might pose a risk or a security threat. There is also a strong commitment to ensuring that those that come to New Zealand settle well and contribute to strengthening nationhood.

To respond to this, New Zealand has three broad strategies centred on strengthening immigration and enabling it to respond to the global changes alongside the expectations and aspirations of New Zealanders themselves.

The strategies include a new Immigration Act, a revised framework for policy development and transformation of the business systems that support immigration.

The new legislation was introduced to parliament earlier this year and will see a complete review of the legislation to be able to respond to both the opportunities and challenges ahead in a changing global environment. The introduction followed wide consultation on the proposals to enable input by the community and business.

The new policy framework is driven by the need to respond to changes from increased globalisation and from domestic changes. This year we have seen the introduction of the new Recognised Seasonal Employer policy which meets horticultural and viticulture industry needs for labour whilst ensuring that New Zealanders are the first choice for seasonal labour and eliminating incentives to overstay by encouraging repeat employment. We thank the IOM for the interest they have shown in this policy and we acknowledge the continuing interest in the outcomes.

There is also work on the relationship between temporary policy and residence policy which whilst historically seen as separate are now being seen as more interdependent.

The new business transformation programme is focussed on strengthening our systems and structure to be both more proactive in attracting skills but increasing our capability to manage the risks and keep out those that pose a risk.

The discussion on immigration and the evolving global economy recognises that all countries are affected by it and the degree of interdependence requires us all to take account of how others are responding and to share information and ideas as we face similar problems. New Zealand hopes that the World Migration report for 2008 will provide a good basis for wider dialogue and would encourage the continued discussion at both regional forums and bilateral discussions.

New Zealand would like to thank the IOM for the work that it does on behalf of New Zealand in the areas of verification, health screening and refugee resettlement. The level of service and the responsiveness has been excellent and the quality of the work has been high.

In 2008 the proposed IOM budget will see an increased level of funding amounting to US\$90 million for activities and projects needed to meet increasing migration challenges. One of the strengths of the IOM is its flexibility in responding to migration challenges as they arise but this continued growth at a high level also requires growth to the capacity and capability within the organisation and the underlying infrastructure to support this. Over the last year there has been acknowledgement of some of the strains around growing capacity. We would encourage continuing to address, monitor and develop risk mitigation strategies around this growth to ensure that the IOM can continue to respond to the challenges that members see as important against the agreed IOM strategy.

New Zealand welcomes the adoption this year of the new strategy and congratulates the Working Group and the Chair in particular for the hard work and long hours they put into reaching an outcome that really will strengthen the work of the IOM. We

would also like to thank the IOM administration for the work they did to support the process and for their untiring efforts to help members reach such a good outcome.

Indeed it has been a year of positive developments for IOM. We would also like to acknowledge the work undertaken in putting together a streamlined and enhanced governance structure through the creation of the Standing Committee on Programme and Finance. New Zealand believes this new structure will enable improved understanding of IOM's work and more engaged governance.

Thank you Chairperson