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Swedish statement at IOM Council meeting, 2 December 2008

Mr. Chairman,
Director General,
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to begin by thanking Director General Swing and Deputy Director General - Madame Ndiaye - for their comprehensive statements. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate Ambassador Swing on his appointment as Director General. We look forward to continuing our fruitful cooperation with IOM under your leadership, and we wish to thank Deputy Director General Ndiaye for her years of diligent service.

Sweden aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, but would like to make the following additional remarks on a national basis.

Mr. Chairman,
Sweden appreciates the very impressive work done by IOM in areas that lie within its area of responsibility. We appreciate the organization's willingness and flexibility to respond to the increasing challenges and opportunities of international migration. We also appreciate IOM's emergency activities in the framework of the Inter Agency Standing Committee.

However, we have for some time been concerned about the organization's tendency to broaden its activities into areas outside of its core responsibilities. We have felt that the exchange of information and consultations between IOM and its member states needs to be strengthened in order to ensure that member states' interests are better taken into account.

Sweden therefore very much welcomes the three main priorities you have expressed as regards improved dialogue with member states, strengthening coordination with other international organizations and NGOs, and encouraging staff professionalism through career development and a transparent human resources system.

We welcome the new strategic framework for IOM that was adopted last year and that will direct IOM's work in the coming years. We very much appreciate that IOM has begun to clearly link its projects and activities with the 12 points contained in the new IOM strategy, and that IOM has undertaken to illustrate this link also for 1035-projects.

Sweden believes that the establishment of the new *Standing Committee on Programs and Finance* will help to ensure productive dialogue and communication between IOM and its member states, particularly with regard to policy and operational activities. All of us – the IOM administration and the member states alike – have a responsibility to make sure that this new body becomes the vital, inclusive and transparent governing body that we firmly believe we need for IOM.

Mr. Chairman,

Sweden's point of departure is that IOM should have adequate resources in order to ensure control, strategic direction and quality in carrying out its various projects. Sweden does not think that it is wise to make IOM

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ever more dependent on Discretionary Income to fund core functions. That is why we have decided to support Zero Real Growth in the administrative budget for this year. We also welcome the establishment of a working group on discretionary income in order to increase transparency with regard to the use of these funds.

Sweden would like to once again stress that member states who are subject to Article 4 of the Constitution must pay their dues as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

Sweden would like to congratulate the IOM on the publication of the 2008 World Migration Report on *Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy*. This is an area that has become increasingly salient in ongoing domestic and international discussions focusing on the linkages between migration and development. Sweden is grateful for the good work IOM does in stimulating policy debate and offering practical approaches to managing labour migration. This year's report is undoubtedly a valuable contribution to the body of knowledge and data that can be of great use to policy makers and practitioners in the field of labour migration.

Sweden will hold the presidency of the EU this time next year, and within the area of migration we intend to prioritize issues relating to legal migration, labour mobility, migration and development, circular migration, and policy coherence. We look forward to cooperating with IOM and benefitting from its expertise in these areas.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

I would like on behalf of Sweden to thank IOM's staff for their dedicated work in helping migrants all over the world.

Thank you Mr. Chairman