

IOM COUNCIL
NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION
Geneva, 23 – 26 November 2009

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR
Arcanjo M. do Nascimento

Mr. President:

Distinguished Delegates:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

First of all Angola associates itself with the statement made by Sudan on the behalf of the African group.

It is for me a great honor to address this session of OIM Council and to share the position of my Government on the most pressing issues related to migration. I would also like to express the commitment of my delegation to the success of this Session.

This session is taking place at a time of a world financial downturn which is exacerbating the impact of migration flows upon some countries. The complex reciprocal relationship between migration and development, and the economic importance of migration in countries of origin, of transit and of destination has become nowadays a great challenge to IOM. It deserves serious consideration by governments as well as relevant regional and international organizations that must also look into ways to protect the human rights of migrants, most of them female, and to prevent and combat human trafficking and alien smuggling.

Since the inception of the human society migration has ever existed. It played a significant role as a driving force behind the economic success and prosperity of many nations both of origin and destination. The downside of migration cannot however be discounted notably the brain drain that affect mostly third world countries thus jeopardizing their hopes of achieving economic and social development in a reasonable future.

Angola is particularly disturbed by the scourge of illegal immigration. Waves of immigrants are flocking daily illegally into Angolan by land and water ways reaching proportions that inspire serious concerns. Some go in search of a new life, others fall prey to human trafficking networks involved in the illegal exploitation of natural resources like diamonds. Most of these citizens are fellow Africans and this alone reminds us that the impact of south-south immigration must also be tackled by IOM.

This is an area that deserves special attention by IOM as a priority. South-south migratory movement generally occurs between countries with contiguous borders and is nearly as large as South-North migration. The bulk of migrants in

developing countries come from other developing countries. Although data available is incomplete and unreliable, our own estimates prove that irregular migration without valid documents is more common South-South than South-North.

Angolan laws provide for any foreign citizen regardless of his or her origin to be allowed to enter and live as long as they meet the necessary requirements. Accordingly, thousands have been cleared with the immigration authorities and allowed to enter, live and work in Angola.

Angola will continue to pursue a strict enforcement of its immigration rules by combating human trafficking and denying access and residence to those without valid documents.

This is just a small step since the fight against the scourge of illegal immigration requires a regional approach. Borders must be adequately secured; efficient management of cross border movements must be ensured; national migration management systems to combat human trafficking and information sharing about the activities of the networks of human trafficking must be developed especially among law enforcement institutions of neighboring countries; poverty reduction programs must be implemented in targeted areas to discourage people from leaving their home places.

Unless effective measures to deal with illegal immigration are taken our sub-region's economic recovery efforts and its overall stability and harmony will be seriously affected in a short term.

Mr. President,

Angola values the important work IOM is carrying out in its territory and I seize this opportunity to express my government's appreciation for the assistance given to support the return of our nationals back home within the framework of the voluntary return program and for their socio-economic reintegration as agents of development. Angola thanks in particular the assistance of IOM to rebuild some infrastructure.

Angola believes that the structure review of IOM is a very timely and needed task as OIM ~~has~~^{is} to be able to adjust to the new challenges. A decentralized structure will allow a better decision making process as the departments and divisions will enjoy varying degrees of autonomy.

As regards the rules and procedures to achieve actualization, many different things need to converge at the right time, and in the right way, assigning specific roles and levels through the role of the units to take action and basically be proactive and technically proficient to develop coherence of action at Headquarters.

The IOM needs to provide resources and opportunities for continuous staff development with the perspective of ample and representative covering of the world.

Thank you very much for your kind attention