



**BELARUS**

**Council of the International Organization for Migration  
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Statement by

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Office and other International Organizations at Geneva**

Mr. Chairman,  
Council Members,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to welcome on behalf of the delegation of Belarus the Director General Mr. William Lacy Swing, the new Deputy Director General, Ambassador Laura Thompson and other distinguished representatives of IOM Administration and to wish them and all Member States the successful work at the current Council's session.

Mr. Chairman,

Today the International Organization for Migration is on the verge of new significant changes as a result of three main reforms proposed by the Director General. We consider it to be a far reaching and strategic step.

A fresh look at IOM activities is a unique opportunity for fair assessment of organization's potential and brainstorming on the ways and means of strengthening the efficiency of the practical activities. Such an opportunity has been given to us by new top officials of the organization. We are grateful to the Director General and the Deputy Director General for the open and transparent approach they demonstrated in organizing consultations with Member States on the issue of IOM structure review. Thanks to that fact today we have a better understanding of the nature of problems and needs of our organization.

While the migration issues become even more burning under the negative impact of the world economic crisis and global warming climate change, the organization structure review seems a well-timed initiative. The number of migrants has reached 1 billion worldwide. This is a huge number and, as a matter of fact, a greater responsibility of our organization for those people's fates.

We believe that the structure review should enable IOM to optimize the resources available and to increase its potential in order to efficiently and timely address the new migration challenges.

With this object in mind our delegation is ready to support IOM structure review. We proceed from the assumption that this review should strengthen both regional and country offices' potential and improve the quality of project activities.

The role of country offices must not be diminished and their project activities must not be turned down during the structure review implementation. That is why we

urge IOM Administration to consider measures to be carried out for ensuring the sustainable country offices activities during the so-called "transition period" of reform processes.

We take note of the Administration's intention to reform the organization within the resources available. At the same time we are not sure that such an approach has been proved to reach the organization structure review's goals effectively.

Our delegation has closely followed the discussion at the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance in October this year on the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2010. We share the views of IOM Administration on the necessity of finance raising. On the other hand, we can accept the counter-arguments of main donor states in this particular issue. So it is obvious that the "golden mean" should be found. And we think that it is, as proposed in the scenario one, the budget growth by 2.55%.

Mr. Chairman,

Belarus considers IOM as a strategic partner in combating trafficking in persons. This problem has not only lost its severity, but is becoming an even more burning issue due to the negative impact of the global crisis on migration situation in different countries – origin, transit and destination.

Belarus welcomes the unflagging attention IOM Administration pays to this challenge and the efforts it takes to assist Governments in strengthening national counter-trafficking potentials.

We are convinced that combating trafficking in persons must remain at the top of Organization's agenda for the years to come. This priority issue should be duly reflected in further short- and long-term IOM strategies.

Our delegation believe that it is a matter of principle to preserve the Return Management and Counter-Trafficking Division (RMCT) at IOM Headquarter in the course of the organization structure review, especially taking into account the scale and urgency of the issue of trafficking in persons. There is a feeling that the Structure Review Team (SRT) has failed to examine this matter thoroughly enough in terms of long-term consequences. We also look forward to have more comprehensive explanations on changes to be done with regard to IOM counter-trafficking structure.

On 12 November 2009 the UN General Assembly at its session successfully adopted omnibus resolution initiated by Belarus which aims at improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons. This resolution recognizes the important role of IOM and other intergovernmental organizations in ensuring effective and comprehensive coordination in the global fight against human trafficking.

UN General Assembly resolution is another step towards the elaboration of a global plan of action on preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting traffickers and protecting and assisting victims of trafficking. In particular, the GA resolution stresses the need for the consultations to be held in an open, inclusive and transparent manner.

We believe that IOM should be actively involved in such consultations in order to make tangible contribution in elaboration of the plan, based on its rich and, from our point of view, progressive experience in countering modern slavery. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss any concrete elements and contributions with IOM experts in Geneva and in New York.

Mr. Chairman,

We are grateful to IOM Administration for the consistent all-round support of the

efforts of the Belarusian Government in the field of combating trafficking in persons and illegal migration. The visit the Director General Mr. Swing paid in July to Minsk clearly proved the adherence of both sides to strengthening strategic partnership in the above mentioned areas. We thank the Director General for constructive and forward-looking approach to development of the International Training Center which was established with IOM broad support. The Belarusian side counts on further IOM support of the Center, particularly by organizing regularly training courses for law enforcement officers from various regions of the world. While the Center's capabilities are in demand, its potential is not yet fully tapped.

Last but not least, I would like to underline that we consider IOM highly creditworthy. We believe that IOM will be able to re-allocate resources and energy effectively in the course of reforms processes.

Thank you.