



**Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN**  
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STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL  
AMBASSADOR MARIA NAZARETH FARANI AZEVÊDO

General Debate

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and the new members of the bureau on your election. May I also convey my sincere appreciation for the efficient leadership of Ambassador Germán Mundaraín Hernández in the IOM Council Bureau along this year. I would also like to take this opportunity to greet the new Deputy Director General, Ambassador Laura Thompson, and wish her the very best of success in the Organization.

Brazil supports the statement made by the distinguished representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries. We join the region's call for a strengthened response capacity of the IOM through appropriate structural adjustments.

This afternoon I would like to discuss two issues. The first is the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on migrants and the response of IOM. The second is the need to mainstream a preventive approach to migration into IOM's activities.

The negative impact of the global economic crisis on employment and poverty levels throughout the world can hardly be overstated. The OECD Economic Outlook, released last week, forecasts a growth of unemployment in 2010 and 2011 in most developed countries. Such environment is a fertile ground for abject prejudices and practices. Prejudice against migrants has become particularly worrisome. It has become more and more prevalent in Governmental policies and national legislative frameworks. This creates particular challenges to which the IOM must respond.

IOM's operations should ensure that migration management is respectful of the human rights of migrants. The human rights of migrants, as just mentioned by

the President of Liberia, is not and cannot be a negotiable issue. The work of the organization in counter-trafficking is a good example of the potentials that lie within the IOM in the field of human rights.

The Organization's impressive expansion in the last ten years – from 67 Member States in 1998 to 127 in 2009 – is a proof of the trust it enjoys from the international community. This entails, however, greater responsibility. Brazil believes the IOM can play a decisive role in the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants. The forthcoming review of IOM's Strategy Document will be an opportunity to mainstream this issue into IOM's programmes. I reassure the willingness of my country to work closely with the IOM in this regard.

Mr. President,

May I now turn to the second point of my presentation, which is the need to mainstream a preventive approach to migration into the Organization. We note that many of the programmes carried out by the IOM, especially on "Regulating Migration", which represents 30% of its operational budget, would be unnecessary if the root causes of involuntary migration were addressed. Brazil believes that migration should not be looked at only with managerial lenses. Policies should focus on the human being first and foremost. Member States should, therefore, support IOM in finding durable solutions for migrants. Brazil is contributing to IOM's activities in Bolivia. Migrants to be assisted under this project will be provided with health and education, essential services for their integration in the country.

IOM's programmes in areas such as "migration health" and "migration and development" play an important role in improving the lives of migrants. Migrants are their ultimate beneficiaries. They represent, however, not more

than 12% of the Organization's operational budget. This unbalance should be corrected. Brazil recalls that reactive activities, such as the assisted return of migrants, should only be carried out with the voluntary consent of the migrant. I emphasize "voluntary".

The International Dialogue on Migration, established in 2001, contributes to an integrated and holistic approach to migration in the IOM, enhancing its preventive capacity. Brazil welcomes this year's dialogue on "Human rights and migration". We encourage the IOM to work with the OHCHR under the Office's Thematic Strategies for 2010-2011. The training of migration officials, parliamentarians, judges and lawyers to monitor migrants' rights and to provide redress are activities the IOM could engage with the OHCHR under this biennium strategy.

Mr. President,

Brazil believes the human being should be at the centre of the international cooperation on migration. This is the very basis of our national migration policy. We believe this is not only a moral imperative, but also economically sound, as demonstrated by the latest Human Development Report. This is why Brazil, so as many other developing countries, has recently passed a new law allowing for regularization and temporary residence in favor of virtually all irregular migrants in the country. It is not that Brazil is an extraordinary country, but if developing countries can do this, why can't rich countries? That is a question that deserves reflection, especially in an environment correctly defined by the Director General as the 'era of the greatest human mobility'.

I thank you Mr. President.