



**IOM Council
NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION**

Geneva, November 23 - 26, 2009

**Statement
by
H.E. Ambassador Reinhard Schweppe
Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations**

Mr. Director General,

Germany should like to associate herself with the statement made by Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

Let me first express our appreciation for the first year of your leadership. You realized in an impressive way the objectives you had announced at the Council one year ago. We support your management of IOM as a member owned organization and the emphasis you put on transparency in policy and administration issues.

In the next years IOM has to face big challenges. The global financial crisis will have significant consequences in the field of international migration. Global phenomena like climate change or mixed migration flows will have growing impact on the activities of IOM. At the same time IOM has to live with considerable financial restraints as an effect of the economic crisis. Therefore, it is, in our view, more than ever important that IOM focuses its activities on the core mandate, that means as a service provider for well managed migration.

Taking into account these enormous responsibilities the structure review is of special importance. The aim of the new structure is to enable the organization to carry out its activities in a coherent, transparent and efficient way, making optimal use of the available resources. We fully support these objectives and the broad framework of the restructure as it is laid down in the draft resolution. Nevertheless, we see also the need to discuss the planned structure changes in detail. For this reason we would like to encourage you to continue with the consultations with the member states during the future implementation process.

Mr. Director General,

Germany and IOM traditionally have a close cooperation. In the past “reintegration and repatriation programmes” were especially important. Nowadays also issues like „integration of migrants in the society and in the labour market“ and “temporary and circular migration“ are of high priority in the political agenda in Germany. Therefore, we see a lot of areas for a continued and intensified cooperation. Germany will remain a reliable partner for IOM.

Thank you, Mr. Director General.