

## LITHUANIA

*Check against delivery*

Address by H. E. Mr. Jonas Rudalevičius,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other  
International Organizations in Geneva

at the Ninety-eight session of the Council of  
the International Organization for Migration

24 November 2009

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Director General,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Lithuania aligns itself fully to the statement of Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

I would like to join congratulations to Ms. Laura Thompson that were here expressed regarding election to the post of the Deputy Director General. I am convinced that immense experience of Ms. Thompson both in bilateral and multilateral issues is and will be a great asset to the Organization, as well as to the international community as a whole.

I want also extend my congratulations to the European Youth Forum in obtaining observer status in the Organization.

Sincere thanks go to the outgoing Bureau of the IOM Council and I would like to congratulate Ambassadors Kitajima of Japan on election to the post of the Chairman of the Council. My congratulations are also extended to other members of the new Bureau.

Mr. Chairman,

Migration remains and will continue to remain one of the features of our modern societies. All countries are influenced but this phenomenon, though this impact may be different for countries of origin, destination, and transit. Other features of migration are also different in different countries, thus creating necessity to maintain country specific approaches at the same time retaining the global view of the issue. We think that activities of the IOM exactly meet these basic expectations. Over the years it developed capacities to address local challenges while remaining truly global view of the problem.

At the same time we recognize considerable changes in migration processes over the past decade. Therefore, we want to express keen interest in the reform processes initiated by the Director General in order to adapt work of the Organization to the new circumstances. I want to thank him for the energy and commitment shown and for his efforts further developing capacities of the Organization. We also appreciate efforts in implementing his original priorities presented last year, namely increasing feeling of ownership of the Organization by Member States, promotion of

partnerships, and improvements in human resources management. These ideas are turning into action and we see some positive trends emerging.

In particular, the proposed structural reform gives ground to believe that there will be further improvements in use of human and financial resources. In this regard we want to thank for elaborating proposals regarding review of the organizational structure.

Efforts in furthering work of the Global Migration Group undertaken by the IOM also deserve appreciation. We thank for organizing discussion on this issue during this session. Migration being a global phenomenon would be better addressed by concerted actions of different international organizations acting within their respective mandates. We support efforts for enhanced cooperation between them and for avoiding duplication of their activities or unnecessary competition. We are convinced that such enhanced activities will reinvigorate common activities in addressing different migration issues.

Mr. Chairman,

We see benefit in the attention given this year in the context of the International Dialogue on Migration to the issue of the human rights of migrants. Migration being not only global, but also multifaceted phenomenon includes different situations in which people find themselves. Noting that it is duty of Member States to respect human rights, we highly appreciate efforts of international organizations, in particular, of the IOM, in this regards as well.

Different forms of migration may either create instability in societies, create tensions, brain drain and other negative effects or they can benefit societies in receiving countries, immigrant communities, and the countries of origin. We are convinced that the Organization will provide opportunities in this regard, in particular in providing more extensive possibilities in protecting people who due to different reasons leave their homes and seek better possibilities elsewhere. We also would like to ask to retain attention at a need for fight against human trafficking that may be associated with migration.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to repeat our gratitude for the work of the IOM bureau in Vilnius. It's dedicated and highly qualified staff is focussing on the most pressing needs and presently even shares expertise in other countries.

Once again, I want to wish to the Administration and all the staff of the Organization, and in particular to the new Deputy Director General all success in their undertakings.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.