

Norway's intervention at general debate during the 98. IOM Council Meeting, November 23. – 26. November 2009

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We would like to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on their election. We would also like to thank the outgoing Chair for his efficient leadership of the Bureau.

We thank the Director General for his comprehensive report to the Council. We highly appreciate the efforts by the Director General since his election for increased transparency and for following up his vision of IOM as a member driven and efficient organisation. We warmly welcome the newly elected Deputy Director General and would like to commend the highly professional and dedicated IOM staff.

We welcome the Review of the Organizational Structure of IOM and the Director General's proposal for a new organizational structure. Given the increased volumes of migration and the increased international attention to migration, we appreciate IOMs continuous efforts to adapt to the changing circumstances. We believe the proposed reorganisation will contribute to clearer reporting lines, greater uniformity of structures and improved oversight of activities at Headquarters and in the field.

The restructuring of the field offices should give each field office the necessary resources to give the support needed for each region. We welcome the proposal that the Oslo office will report to a strengthened Brussels office. We believe the restructuring will contribute to a better organisation for the region of the European Economic Area. Headquarters should continue to have an overall

responsibility for project development while the country offices should be responsible for donor liaison.

We support the remarks made by the Director General that the core budget of IOM should correspond to the growth of the organisation. A strong core structure is key to high quality planning, oversight and policy guidance to the field and projects. We look forward to a continued debate on budget reform.

Gender mainstreaming should continue to be of high priority for IOM both in projects and within the organisation itself.

Mr Chairman,

Norway highly values the IOM as a partner in migration management. Well managed migration may benefit countries of origin, countries of destination and migrants themselves.

IOM is a major partner for Norway in the field of counter-trafficking. We are currently carrying out reviews of our own work and IOM's counter-trafficking work on a global basis. We look forward to sharing with you the result of these evaluations.

We encourage States to ratify and implement the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocol on Trafficking in Persons. We welcome the decision by its Conference of Parties to consider establishing a review mechanism for the implementation of the Convention and its protocols and to improve coordination of international efforts to combat trafficking in human beings.

The current financial crisis has and will have a negative impact on the movement of people across borders. The crisis also affects investments, official aid and the private capital flows such as remittances

The increasing global unemployment rate further demonstrates that the crisis is not over. Women and youth are often in a disadvantaged position in comparison to men in labour markets around the world. Implementing the eight fundamental ILO Conventions is essential in this regard, as they apply to migrants workers as well. In addition, good governance, a general welfare policy and well distributed wealth in society are essential to protect migrants at home, while in transit and in countries of destination.

Norway has increased its focus on the development dimensions of international migration. We have engaged multi-sectors and non-traditional stakeholders, and amplified our efforts towards increasing the benefits of international migration for developing countries. The government has proposed a range of measures that aim to empower migrants and diaspora to contribute to development. We believe that strengthening the development impact of international migration can help give us the “triple-win” situation: international migration that benefits countries of origin, countries of destination, as well as the migrants themselves and their families.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman