



## **BELARUS**

Council of the International Organization for Migration  
Ninety-Ninth session

**Statement by  
Representative of the Republic of Belarus  
Mr. Andrei Taranda**

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the comprehensive report the Director General presented to us on the IOM activities as well as priorities for years to come and the future role of the Organization in addressing modern migration challenges and opportunities.

We are pleased to note that with the new Administration IOM certainly strengthened its role as the leading international migration agency.

This year IOM has effectively executed its mandate by, inter alia, solving the problems resulted from numerous emergent situations in different regions. IOM in close collaboration with the UN agencies has provided an adequate and timely response to all emergencies, including unprecedentedly devastated ones in Haiti and Pakistan. We highly value the assistance IOM provided to the population affected and displaced by conflicts and natural disasters.

In this context we commend the determination of IOM Administration to further strengthen cooperation and promote coordination with the UN agencies and funds, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, in addressing emerging humanitarian situations and migration challenges as a whole.

Cautious forecasts that were expressed last year regarding the IOM restructuring and other reforms proposed by the new Administration give way today to preliminary, mostly positive, assessments of the measures undertaken. However, it is too early to sum up the practical value of the structural, staff and budget reforms of the organization. From our perspective, these reforms should be evaluated in terms of their capacity to improve the effectiveness of the work of IOM regional and country offices and, as a result, to strengthen the capacity building of Member States in migration management and related areas.

We look forward to the field structures changes, which the Administration plans to complete by the end of 2011. At the same time we believe that such changes should not produce any negative impacts on the IOM current activities in the field, especially on project implementation.

Belarus delegation took note of the Director General's vision of the five-year outlook and three strategic objectives determined by the new Headquarters Team. While considering them as a look ahead, we proceed from the assumption that 12-point Strategy, agreed by Member States, has already established framework for IOM activities. We consider it as a comprehensive and balanced one.

Mr. Chairman,

Trafficking in human beings remains the major challenge of nowadays. It is also a topical question in the context of illegal migration flows and modern migration trends.

Belarus consistently supports the IOM anti-trafficking activity and believes that in this area the Organization continues to play a leading role. We firmly believe that the combating trafficking should remain one of the IOM top priorities. We call upon the Administration to keep a sharper focus on anti-trafficking activities in the forthcoming years.

This year my country together with other Member States took further efforts towards the elaboration of a new holistic approach in addressing the human trafficking phenomenon. In August the UN General Assembly successfully adopted the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

We would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude to the IOM Administration for the valuable support it provided to Belarus at all stages of the promotion of the initiative.

The adoption of the UN Global Plan of Action is a momentous event. But the success of this initiative can be achieved through its effective implementation by all stakeholders. In this regard we think that IOM, having a long-standing record of combating trafficking, may significantly contribute to this process by assisting Member States with the implementation of the Plan's provisions in the field.

Belarus believes that for this reason IOM should to increase the use of the migration training centers, like, for example, in Minsk, and to extend its anti-trafficking project activities. In our view, it will be generally beneficial to raise the awareness of the Global Anti-trafficking Plan in IOM country offices.

We are grateful to IOM Administration for the consistent all-round support of the national efforts to eliminate trafficking in persons and address illegal migration.

We appreciate IOM for holding in October this year the international conference on new threats and challenges in fighting trafficking as well as for valuable support it provides to the International Training Center in Minsk by organizing regular training courses for government officials, including those from other countries. In the context of strengthening cooperation between the International Training Center and other international organizations we explore the possibility of inviting OHCHR experts to contribute to the training process.

Finally, let me conclude by saying that IOM stands a highly creditworthy organization and Belarus will continue to support it in pursuing its tasks.

I thank you.0