



Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN

15, chemin Louis Dunant
1202 Genève

99th Session

Council of the IOM

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL
AMBASSADOR MARIA NAZARETH FARANI AZEVÊDO

General Debate

November 30th, 2010

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

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 Shinichi Kitajima in the IOM Council Bureau along this year. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Director General, Ambassador William Swing, as well as Ambassador Laura Thompson, for their hard work ahead of the Organization.

Migration trends demonstrate that this is a phenomenon that will increasingly require dialogue and cooperation among States. We commend the government of Mexico for convening the 4th Global Forum on Migration and Development. Brazil believes the GFMD is a unique forum for governmental dialogue on migration. We favour the strengthening of this forum and its gradual incorporation into the UN. This would greatly enhance its effectiveness for policy coherence in relation to the United Nations bodies, funds, programmes and agencies that engage in work related to various aspects of international migration and development. We recognize the IOM as a leading global migration agency.

Mr. President,

Brazil shares the Director-General's concern about the growing anti-migrant sentiment. In May 2010, Brazil hosted the Third Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations. It was the first time the Forum was held outside the European continent and we had the honour to count with the participation of the Director General as a keynote speaker on the subject "migrants as agents for change and development". The Alliance of Civilizations is the response of a large number of countries to those who insist to divide humanity from the perspective of a clash of civilizations. Unfortunately, migrants are the first victims of such a negative

mindset. The discussions in Rio de Janeiro provided for a rich exchange of initiatives taken by Governments, the private sector, NGOs and politicians to rethink the way we deal with “the other”. We invite IOM to further explore such initiatives and to be a leader in promoting a strengthened alliance of civilizations.

As a multicultural nation, Brazil is proud of its diversity. Our country has implemented public policies that recognize and enhance the values of diversity and tolerance. As a country built by migrants that sought for a better life, Brazil opposed the tendency of criminalizing migration by passing legislation that has regularized thousands of irregular migrants in the country.

Mr. President,

From our own history, we have learned that migrants contribute to the development, innovation and enrich the culture of a country. This requires, though, that their fundamental rights are respected. IOM’s operations should ensure that migration management is respectful of the human rights of migrants. The human rights of migrants, as highlighted by the President of Liberia in this Council last year, is not and cannot be a negotiable issue.

In reviewing its Strategy, the Organization has pointed out that migration has reached a higher profile in the international agenda. The increasing number of migrants, and the challenges the phenomenon poses to governments in keeping with their obligations under human rights instruments, require that IOM incorporates the respect for the human rights of migrants in all its activities. Brazil would like to draw IOM’s attention to the number of resolutions adopted by consensus by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly of the UN that are related to IOM’s mandate. Just two months ago, the Human Rights Council adopted an important resolution focusing on the obligations of States to

uphold the rights of migrants throughout the whole migration process, regardless of their migrations status.

Brazil commends the IOM for incorporating human rights into its projects. We note with satisfaction, in this regard, capacity building activities that aim to assist Governments for the adoption of policies and legislation to combat exploitation and xenophobia. We also value IOM's decision to actively participate in sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Brazil encourages the organization to pursue dialogue with other human rights treaty bodies and special procedures and to follow up decisions taken by the Human Rights Council. Its capacity to promote technical cooperation in this area would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the human rights system. As States discuss the review of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, all converge on the need to mainstream human rights in operational agencies. As a leader on migration issues, the IOM could be an example to its counterparts in this area.

Brazil understands that the IOM does not operate in a legal vacuum in regards to human rights obligations. Not only do States that are benefited by IOM's projects are bound by human rights obligations, but the organization itself, as a member of the international community, shall observe fundamental human rights standards. Therefore, the protection of human rights is not just a "de facto" consequence of the operations of the IOM. Nor is the organization exempted to observe these standards because it does not have a mandate for the development and setting of norms. Brazil is confident that the IOM will continue to incorporate human rights into its project cycle and its operations and will spell out this understanding more clearly.

Mr. President,

A final word on the commendable work undertaken by IOM in the field of humanitarian assistance. In the year of 2010, Brazil and IOM strengthened its partnership to respond to emergencies. In Haiti, Brazil contributed with USD 1.3 million to support IOM's camp management activities. This allowed for the registration of displaced people, the provision of food and the establishment of temporary schools. Such activities have also benefited from security support by the Brazilian contingent of MINUSTAH in the country.

We are looking forward to further expanding our humanitarian partnership with the IOM in 2011.

I thank you Mr. President.