

Republic of Bulgaria



Statement

**by H.E. Ambassador Gancho Ganey,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
at the General Debate of the 99th Session of the Council of the
IOM**

Geneva, Tuesday 30 November 2010

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Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Director General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bulgaria associates fully with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. Allow me at the outset to congratulate the five new members of the Organization and the three newly admitted observers, and to wish them successful participation in the work of the IOM and fruitful contribution to the common goals we set before us.

Our lively discussion, being held in the eve of IOM's 60th anniversary, is a good opportunity to take stock of the progress made over the last three years, reflect on the new challenges and design our vision for the future. It is also a chance to prepare better for the Second United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to express our satisfaction with the qualitative and instructive document prepared by the Administration on IOM Strategy and the enlightened report of the Director General. They provide us with an excellent basis for productive discussion. The activities IOM have carried out over the past three years on all 12 points speak volume about the clear focus and consistency of the efforts to fulfill Organization's mandate as a leading global organization, focusing on migration management. Building on achievements, IOM have worked hard to identify and address the emerging challenges, to find innovative and creative solutions and raise its effectiveness. There is a more than 40% increase in the total number of active projects in 2009 compared to 2007; a threefold expansion of the number of applicants served under pre-consular support services. The structural changes strengthened Organization's governing mechanism and ensured greater transparency and more regular information on programmes. IOM have contributed to the development of national migration

legislation and policies in accordance with international norms and standards. We commend the Director General for his leadership and strong efforts to make real difference in IOM's work.

Looking to the future, I wish to emphasize some priority areas where IOM should reaffirm its comparative advantages:

- It is critical for the leadership to continue identifying areas of mutual interest and cooperation, put forward an overarching vision for collaboration and coordination and engage countries in constructive dialogue. IOM should reinforce its position in the international architecture as an inclusive platform and catalyst for debate at national, regional and global level on migration topics.

- It is of utmost importance that the Organization continues its work on the impact of the emerging challenges on migration, such as globalization, economic crises, climate and demographic changes, emergency situations. Building on lessons learned it is vital to develop stronger knowledge and propose adequate answers to the problems of most vulnerable groups of migrants – youth, women, affected by economic downturns etc.

- An important challenge for efficient global migration management is to establish greater coherence among the existing international institutions. The Report points out to still existing barriers for full information sharing and cooperation with the UN bodies. We support the efforts for closer cooperation between the UN and IOM.

- Efficient data collection and sound analysis is the key to developing credible policy and effective programmes, to successfully anticipate the dramatic changes in order to assist migrants to be better prepared to face new challenges. IOM should work in close collaboration with the leading research and policy think tanks around the world and be driving force in maintaining such a network.

Mr. Chairman,

Bulgaria attaches great attention to fostering effective partnerships, both bilateral and multilateral, as a key to better managed mobility of migrants. Early this month we hosted in Sofia an International Expert Conference “Migration and Employment – European and Regional Perspectives” (3-5 November). The participants agreed to set up an expert network with a view to promote policy dialogue and closer cooperation in order to facilitate the legal migration in South Eastern Europe. The countries will share information and data analysis on the legal entry, stay and employment of migrants in the region, exchange experiences and good practices. They will promote the cooperation among their information centers for immigrants, devise joint projects, in particular aimed at encouraging circular migration, and start the preparation of a High-Level Regional Conference on Migration in Southeastern and Eastern Europe.

Over the last years Bulgaria has been placing special emphasis on programmes aimed at creating economic, political, scientific and social environment to keep the most dynamic elements of our society and to ensure a sustained trend for circular migration of Bulgarian citizens living abroad – one of the main strategic objectives of our seven-year National Strategy on Migration and Integration (2008-2015). We have been exploring the opportunities, reviewing the legislative framework, improving the information database, fostering links with the Bulgarian diaspora.

I wish also to seize the occasion to stress the excellent partnership of our Government with the IOM Office in Bulgaria, which is a key partner in the fulfillment of migration related priorities of our political agenda, including in some projects, supporting the preparatory process to join the Schengen area.

Thank you for your attention.