

99<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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Statement by

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the Republic of Hungary

Geneva, 30 November 2010

Honoured Mr. Chair, Director General, Distinguished Members and Observers,

It gives me much pleasure to greet you on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Hungary at the 99th Session of the Council of International Organization for Migration.

I would like to express my special greetings to the representatives of the Central African Republic, Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, as newly elected members of the Council.

Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union who stressed the importance of the fight against irregular migration with special respect to fundamental human rights, and also with regard to the challenge of smuggling and trafficking in human beings that also affects Central and South-East Europe.

Hungary – as the third member of the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian EU Presidency Trojka – will assume the Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first semester of 2011. In line with the relevant points of the justice and home affairs agenda, Hungary intends to put special emphasis on the following topics in the field of refugee and migration affairs:

- Ensuring the implementation of the Stockholm Programme,
- Annual revision of the implementation of the Immigration and Refugee Pact,
- Combating more effectively irregular migration and trafficking in human beings,
- Facilitating the sustainable return to the countries of origin and implementing a humane return and readmission policy that respects human rights,
- Developing the Common European Asylum System,
- Performing structured and comprehensive dialogue with third countries,
- Enhancing the migration dimension of the Eastern Partnership,
- Continuing the project of Building Migration Partnerships, exploiting more effectively the inherent capacities,
- Promoting the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen Agreement

These objectives – by their nature – require management of legal and irregular migration challenges with special regard to the regional dimensions, and at the same time, have special significance in terms of the core mandate of IOM. In this regard Hungary counts on the support and expertise of IOM in facilitating

the effective performance of these goals. Along this cooperation we are also closely following the programmes of the „*International Dialogue on Migration*” scheduled for 2011 as well as their core elements which are in line with the priorities of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Hungary similarly to the good practice of the preceding years, intends to support in the future the activities of IOM performed in the field of migration. Hereby I would like to point to the fact that, between 2007 and 2010, Hungary supported 4 IOM projects from state budget, with approximately 130.000 EUR, moreover contributed to the programmes of the European Return Fund and the European Refugee Fund with an amount of some 280.000 EUR.

We are pleased to announce that the Republic of Hungary is ready to offer its active support in the successful achievement of the voluntary return programmes of IOM in Turkey.

Moreover, it is my pleasure to inform you that the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Hungary will be organizing a conference in May 2011 in cooperation with IOM under the framework of „*Migrants in the Spotlight*” project with the title „*Fostering integration by means of mass media and intercultural dialogue*”. The conference will focus mainly on sharing the best practices concerning the awareness raising and the enhancement of openness of host societies, by way of public information campaigns, cultural and social events as well as attracting the attention of the media.

Mr. Chair,

Recognizing the importance of the fact that the Administration of IOM will make its final decision in the near future in respect of the structural reform’s implementation in the field, I would like to use this opportunity and stress the importance of maintaining the prioritized status of the Budapest Representation.

We think that the nearly two decade long cooperation between the Hungarian government agencies dealing with migration and the Regional Representation of IOM for Central and South-East European may be declared as a success story in handling the migration flows within the region.

The Representation, with its ongoing voluntary return and reintegration programmes since 1993, with its several fact-finding missions to the Balkan countries, as well as with its capacity building actions aimed to combat human

trafficking in the region, has contributed substantially to the enhancement of the migration stability of the region.

To maintain this stability should be a common interest in the forthcoming period. Hungary has a strategic geopolitical position in terms of irregular migration flows and their accompanying phenomena from the North- and South-East towards the European Union, in which – until the EU accession of the Republic of Serbia – significant shift is not to be expected.

In such migration policy environment it is a vital interest that each international organization dealing with migration management in the region could provide with adequate and coordinated responses to the latest challenges. The eligibility of the Budapest Representation to perform high-level functions is also underlined by the fact that Budapest is hosting UNHCR's Regional Representation and Global Service Center, the Central and Eastern European Subregional Office of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the European and Central Asian Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as well as the Europe Zone Office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

In conclusion we believe that our cooperation with IOM will be as fruitful and as successful as it was in the past, and that the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of IOM next year will be an outstanding opportunity to celebrate our common work.

Thank you for your attention.