

Permanent Mission of India  
Geneva  
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Statement by India on 30 November 2010 in the  
General Debate of the 99<sup>th</sup> session of the Council of IOM  
(29 November to 2 December 2010)

Mr. Chairperson,

The Indian delegation wishes to express its deep appreciation to the Director-General for his comprehensive Report on (a) the state of migration, (b) the state of IOM and (c) a preliminary outlook for the next five years 2011 to 2015. We share the Director-General's concerns about increasing insularity adversely affecting migration, rising anti-migrant sentiments globally and first targeting the migrants in case of the global financial crisis.

2. We wish to place on record our appreciation for the excellent documentation prepared by IOM for the 99<sup>th</sup> session of the Council. We also wish to express our deep appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Shinichi Kitajima, for his sagacity, dedication and patience in successfully conducting the numerous meetings of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee and the Special Working Group on Budget Reforms held during the year. We welcome the incoming Chair, Ambassador Idriss Jazairy, the First and Second Vice-Chairs, Austria and Colombia and Rapporteur from Bangladesh, and extend all our good wishes and pledge our cooperation to the Chair and his team.

3. We recognize the substantial increase in the activities of IOM as reflected in the detailed Report of the Director-General and commend IOM for continuing to provide a humane response to migration challenges through its operations of improved and efficient migration management, its core mandate. At the same time, we reiterate the concerns expressed by the

Director-General on the phenomenon of increasing resistance and insularity from developed countries being shown to migration and developing country migrants. To this end, we would like to draw attention to the fact that the largest project in the Programme and Budget for 2011 proposes allocating US\$ 82,258,100 for 'regulating migration'; general return of migrants and unsuccessful asylum seekers and support for Governments on Voluntary Return Assistance (page 142, fourth section under "Regulating Migration" Project IV.1.1). It represents the highest sum of funds allocated for a particular operation out of all the operations performed by IOM globally in any region! We urge IOM, therefore, to ensure that its activities and operations harmonise better with its core mandate of management of migration in a safe and orderly manner so that the human dimensions of the migration challenges are more humanely addressed.

4. We welcome the five new Members that have joined the IOM family namely, Kingdom of Lesotho, Central African Republic, Republic of Timor-Leste, Kingdom of Swaziland and Republic of Botswana, resulting in increase of IOM Membership to 132. With regard to Observers, we recognize the three Observers namely International Institute of Humanitarian Law, Volunteers in the World and Scalabrini International Migration Network.

5. Mr. Chairperson, we welcome the improved streamlining of activities of IOM through its newly reorganized four departments. We express regret at the loss of six IOM staff members in the discharge of their functions in 2010 and in this context, look forward to a conclusive outcome on the ongoing discussions of the Working Group on Budget Reforms and endorse the need to rationalize apportioning of funds to the core and operational parts of the Budget. We are of the view that operations such as staff safety and

security, PRISM maintenance costs, audit and evaluation, finalization and translation of official documents can be defined as core functions, as per established practice followed by other International Organisations. However, other activities such as IOM's cluster responsibilities, migration health, private-sector liaison, in our view, are operational in nature. We are, indeed, concerned that the discretionary part of the income of IOM, that was primarily meant, through the un-earmarked contributions and interest income, (a) to give support to country-missions requiring temporary financial assistance, (b) to be seed money for Project Development Initiatives, (c) 1035 Facility, (d) Global Activity Support is being increasingly used to fund aspects related to the core structure, that is, defray the essential administrative costs of IOM. Renewed efforts, therefore, must be made by the IOM in cooperation with the Working Group on Budget Reform to ensure a rational outcome on distribution of funds for the core and operational part of the Budget so as to ensure that project implementation, especially for developing countries, is not adversely affected.

6. Given the dynamics of migration management and its organic linkage with development, the need to review the IOM strategy on migration every three years is a welcome step. Accordingly, while concurring to the draft Resolution on the Review of the IOM Strategy in its present form, we would suggest that the background document to be prepared by the IOM Administration, as per clause 6, be electronically circulated to all Member-States first, to enable incorporation of comments from all Member-States. This method is an established practice followed by other International Organisations.

7. We welcome the formal launch of the World Migration Report 2010 on the Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change. We look

forward to the interactive dialogue with the Global Migration Group chaired by the High Commissioner for Human Rights. As the complexities of technology, challenges of environment and economics increasingly compel us to engage globally, the inevitability of migration as an outcome and necessity of the above phenomena requires not only to be recognized but pragmatically addressed. To this end, the mere application of a law and order paradigm on migration would be limiting the effective management of migration and depriving both the sending and the destination countries of benefiting from the opportunities of migration. Mr. Chairperson, we, therefore, look forward with interest to the discussions on migration and social change, as part of the agenda, that we, therefore, look forward to discussing the issue in a holistic and developmental context.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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