



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GERARD CORR
OF IRELAND:
GENERAL DEBATE OF COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION
29 NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2010**

**99th Meeting of the Council of the International Organisation for Migration
Geneva, 29 November – 2 December 2010
Statement on behalf of Ireland**

Mr. President,

I wish to thank the Director General for his opening statement and for his leadership – as manager and advocate – of the IOM and its work.

Ireland joins in welcoming as members of the Council Botswana, Central African Republic, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Timor Leste.

Ireland fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,

Ireland welcomes the intention of the IOM to organise a High Level Meeting on the 60th anniversary of the Organisation in 2011. In 2013, we will also have the second UNGA high level dialogue on International Migration and Development. Both meetings will offer opportunities for renewed focus and strategy in meeting the new challenges that the Director General has outlined.

My delegation welcomes the outcome of the fourth Global Forum on Migration and development in Mexico earlier this month.

It is already more than clear that the challenges – which are also opportunities – facing the IOM will grow to daunting proportions in the coming years. Migration, as the Director General has emphasised, will be a mega trend of this century and will be embedded in the fabric of global economic activity. Demographic trends; labour deficits; North-South economic disparities; migration due to climate change; new migration patterns involving South-South migration: all are a mosaic of complex and interlinked patterns and their consequences will be profound, politically and socially as well as economically.

The Director General has rightly emphasised that we now need a new narrative on migration. At one level, this requires unyielding vigilance against anti-migrant sentiment and a scaffolding of protection to safeguard the rights and dignity of often very vulnerable groups and people. Beyond that, the positive contributions of migrant workers to society and to the global economy need continuous emphasis and retelling. As migration patterns increase and change, dangerous new fault lines of insecurity and disempowerment may emerge, as the International Council on Human Rights policy powerfully pointed out in a recent report.

Ireland welcomes, therefore, the strong emphasis in the 2010 World Migration Report on migration and capacity building. This task will be critical for this Organisation over the coming years: the focus already being given to it is to be warmly welcomed.

It is also increasingly apparent that there must be a further deepening of IOM's strategic partnerships with the wider UN system, with member States, and with regional organisations. IOM's cooperation with the UN system is given firm expression by its participation in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its role in the cluster system. The leadership role taken by IOM in the cluster for camp coordination and camp management in natural disasters is to be welcomed. We emphasise the need for the organisation to allocate adequate resources to this important function, and we echo the call made yesterday in the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union for the mainstreaming of costs related to this function into the IOM's budget. Wider UN system support for the IOM in its work, often in humanitarian crisis situations, must of course be a core dimension of strengthened coordination and cooperation.

My delegation welcomes the increasing cooperation and coordination between the IOM and, for example, the WHO on the right to access to health and the UNHCR on mixed migration flows and other issues.

Mr. President, as we have heard in this debate, migration is a kaleidoscope of different dimensions, including, as pointed out by the Director General, the increasing importance of remittances, already decisively outpacing total flows of official development assistance to many developing countries.

Our consideration of these dimensions in this organisation must, more and more, go beyond the technical and issues of management – however crucial – to wider strategic issues that will be at the forefront of the international political, economic and human rights landscape.

Thank you Mr. President.