

ITALY

STATEMENT BY PREFECT ANGELA PRIA  
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IMMIGRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF ITALY  
AT THE 99TH SESSION OF IOM COUNCIL  
(Geneva, 29 November 2010)

Mr. Chair, Director General, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates.

*Let me congratulate you Ambassador Iain on your election as well as the support of my country to your*  
I wish to thank the Director General for the full and exhaustive report and for the excellent work accomplished so far. *inductor*

Ambassador Swing, you can count on our continued support, as can the Deputy Director General, Ambassador Thompson and your team.

Italy would like to warmly welcome the new members and observers and looks with particular interest at the contribution that the Institute for International Humanitarian Law and FOCSIV, both based in my country, will bring to IOM. *new and secularist observers*

*International Migration Network*

Italy fully endorses the Statement made by the EU Delegation on behalf of the European Union. Therefore, I will only raise few points that are of particular interest to my country.

IOM has always been Italy's privileged partner and has accompanied my country in the different stages of its recent history, in changing from an emigration country into transit country and later into destination country for migrants.

In the last years this cooperation has increased owing to the particular pressure affecting Italy and the landings on the Italian coasts and has allowed the implementation of a management system of mixed

*At the same time I wish to thank the Ambassador of Japan for the his leadership during the last year.*

flows which, in cooperation with UNHCR, the Red Cross and Save the Children, is a much appreciated and worthy example at the international level.

For several years Italy has been engaged in fighting criminal organizations, including the ones which manage human trafficking. The exceptional results in this field were reached also thanks to the important contribution of IOM in supporting this struggle through its engagement in identifying victims, in providing them with assistance in Italy or in their countries of origin and in helping them to return.

An effective integration policy is now considered – even at a European Union level – as a key element for a correct management of migration. Italy is presently strongly engaged in this particular field and earmarks all available resources to support these efforts, encouraging the involvement of the foreign communities present on the territory, in projects which are aimed also at promoting the development in the countries of origin. Also in this field IOM contribution is essential.

The Italian Government is willing to continue this close cooperation with IOM as well as to develop it in the future towards more and more strategic sectors such as the cooperation with the transit countries and with the immigrants' countries of origin, whose role is very important both in order to fight against illegal immigration, against the criminal networks, and in order to ensure an orderly management of the migratory flows, in view of a mutual benefit for the countries of origin and those of destination.

Mr. Chairman, Italy considers IOM the leading organization on migration issues. As such, we fully support its strategy as recently

reviewed during the Standing Committee on Finance and Program, including the contribution to the protection of migrants.

**Mr. Chairman,**

**we confirm our support for the ongoing review of the structure of IOM.**

**We consider that the reorganization will have positive effects and for this reason we think that its implementation has to be regularly monitored.**

**We are sure that this will not affect the attention, which will always be focused on the strategic areas. Among them, the Mediterranean area, crossroads of considerable migratory flows from Africa and from Eastern countries, is obviously the one which requires attention.**

**For this reason Italy welcomes the assignment of coordination and resource mobilization functions to the IOM Office in Rome, as recently confirmed on the occasion of the Deputy Director General's visit to Rome. The Office should retain the necessary capacity not to disrupt the delicate equilibrium established in its relation with the Mediterranean region.**

**Italy welcomes the Administration decision to present a Zero Nominal Growth Budget for 2011 and confirms its full engagement in the working group on the budget reform in view of examining possible alternative ways to fund core structure needs.**