



NEW ZEALAND

99th SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION COUNCIL

STATEMENT BY

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you chairperson.

The migration challenges over the past year continue as the world slowly recovers from the economic downturn.

As we approach the 60th anniversary of the IOM, we can take time to reflect on the positive and constructive progress IOM has made as an organisation. New Zealand acknowledges the importance of the IOM implementing changes which will ensure that the organisation can continue to fulfil its mandate effectively and efficiently. In particular we appreciate there is always a limit to the resources available and that, in acting in the best interests of Member States, the IOM must allocate resourcing where it is most effective.

It is within this context that we would like to congratulate the Director General on leading the IOM at a time when we have witnessed increased global unemployment and its subsequent implications for changing demands for both domestic and migrant workers.

We would also like to congratulate IOM on the launch of World Migration Report 2010 (WMR 2010). The Report collects and reviews a range of activities to assist states prepare for changes, and to identify best practice for capacity-building as well as gaps and weaknesses.

New Zealand therefore takes this opportunity to reiterate our ongoing support for IOM and its core mandate.

Member States, including New Zealand, are continuing to think about the long-term consequences of the economic crisis on their immigration policies and preparing for future scenarios with regard to migration issues. The drivers of migration are unlikely to change radically. It is important to remember that, for many, migration is linked to economic opportunity.

In New Zealand, our new Immigration Act 2009 (the 2009 Act) substantially comes into force **today** (29 November 2010). It replaces the Immigration Act 1987. The new Act has a number of significant changes, including stronger obligations on employers to ensure they only employ people who are legally able to work in New Zealand, the incorporation of grounds for protection under the Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and streamlining of immigration appeal processes while maintaining fairness and natural justice for appellants.

The New Zealand Government has also agreed to a high-level strategic direction for immigration. The strategic direction puts immigration squarely within an economic framework. It seeks to increase immigration's contribution to New Zealand by better attracting and retaining highly productive migrants, better utilising their talents and linkages, and better integrating migrants into the workforce and society. The strategic direction comprises a vision and objectives that will guide future immigration policy development.

In keeping with the IOM's efforts in counter-trafficking, and following the release of its Plan of Action to Prevent People Trafficking in June last year, the New Zealand government launched an awareness raising campaign against people trafficking in

October 2010, with a media release, brochures and a website identifying possible indicators of trafficking and urging people to report it. The brochure has been printed in English, Samoan, Tongan, Malaysian, Vietnamese and Chinese and distributed to community groups, government agencies, non-government organisations and other service providers. More details are on the website: www.immigration.govt.nz/peopletrafficking

New Zealand is also standing firm against people smuggling by participating in regional fora, including the Bali Process. In October 2009, as part of the Bali Process, New Zealand co-led with IOM a workshop on communication campaigns to combat people smuggling. Following advice received from the IOM at the workshop, a New Zealand communications strategy against people smuggling, identifying anti smuggling messages in the New Zealand context, was developed. In October 2010, a communication campaign to discourage people smuggling was launched on YouTube by the New Zealand by the Minister of Immigration.

Lastly, we would like to thank the IOM for its in depth consultative approach in working towards making effective changes in the structure, management and resourcing of the organisation.