

99th Session of the Council of the International Migration Organization (IOM)

Statement of Leonir Mario Chiarello

Executive Director of the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN)

Mister Director General,

Resumption of massive immigration and refugee movements, on the one hand, and restrictive immigration policies, xenophobic violence and new nations with multicultural populations, on the other hand, challenge the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) to provide the knowledge base and understanding required for sound policy formulation and productive international debate, as well as provide programs and services for migrants, refugees, internally displaced people and people on the move.

The Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2006 to promote the dignity and the rights of migrants and people on the move worldwide. SIMN acts as the legal entity in charge of representing more than 250 entities of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Saint Charles, Scalabrinians, that operate in 32 countries working with migration issues and human mobility. The mission of SIMN is to protect and promote the dignity and the rights of migrants, refugees, internally displaced people, seafarers and people on the move, and promote a peaceful coexistence between local communities and migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination of migration.

With its interdisciplinary approach and international perspective of services and programs, SIMN conducts scientific research, training programs, services, technical assistance and advocacy programs through Centers for Migration Studies, welcoming centers for migrants and refugees (the "*Casas del Migrante*" network), kindergartens, schools, orphanages, clinics, houses for the elders and mass media.

Mister Director General,

Since the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the international institutional leader in managing migration issues, on behalf of the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) and the Congregation of the Missionaries of Saint Charles, Scalabrinians, I would like to express our gratitude for granting the Observer Status to SIMN. This formal recognition will improve our relationship and our collaboration in favor of migrants and people on the move worldwide.

Thank you.

Geneva, November 29th, 2010