

SWEDEN

Statement by Ambassador Jan Knutsson

Mr. Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Sweden aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me start by thanking the Director-General for his introductory remarks and his effective leadership of IOM. Sweden attaches great value to IOM's work in the fields of migration management and delivery of humanitarian assistance to migrants.

Mr. Chairperson,

Sweden has been supportive of IOM's efforts to implement the structural reform program. We continue to be supportive as the organization now starts to implement the organizational changes in the field. As this part of the process includes the devolution of project review and endorsement processes to the field, it is imperative that appropriate mechanisms are established for ensuring that projects are clearly linked to IOM's strategy before they are approved, and that the systems for oversight, financial controls and evaluation remain robust.

transparency

Sweden appreciates the background documentation underpinning the review of the IOM-strategy by this Council meeting, but we regret that the review process has not been sufficiently impact oriented. As preparations are undertaken to revisit this issue in three years time, a discussion on what actual impact the strategy has had on the operations of IOM should be encouraged. In the meantime, it is important that the administration and Members States work in partnership to streamline the project activities of IOM.

Mr. Chairperson,

In light of the growth of IOM's operational budget it is appropriate to review the core structures of the organization and how these are funded. Sweden therefore supports efforts underway in the context of the working group on budget reform. The ambition should be to find an appropriate way to ensure that the core structures of the organization are funded in a predictable manner. In the context of the administrative budget, we urge all Members States concerned to settle the issue of outstanding membership fees to IOM.

Mr. Chairperson,

Sweden is appreciative of the work IOM does in the areas of migration management and capacity building. Sweden and IOM have enjoyed close ~~and fruitful~~ cooperation in several areas, not least in the field of refugee resettlement. However, in recent years, Sweden has become increasingly concerned about the lack of transparency with regard to how resettlement funds allocated by states are used. We urge IOM to undertake ~~appropriate~~ measures to improve transparency in this regard.

Sweden is also grateful for the good work IOM does in stimulating policy debate and offering practical approaches to various current and future migration challenges. We congratulate IOM on the launch of the World Migration Report 2010, a publication which undoubtedly will be of great interest and use to the Member States.

In addition, Sweden support IOM's involvement in the Global Migration Group, which constitute an important forum for cooperation and coordination on migration issues. In this respect, we laud the joint initiative by UNDP, UNICEF, ILO and IOM to produce a Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration in Development Planning, and we encourage the GMG to continue to identify new areas for cooperation that can strengthen coordination between the members.

Mr. Chairperson,

IOM is a very important component of the humanitarian response system within the context of the IASC. Sweden ^{regularly} often provides funding to IOM projects implemented in the framework of Consolidated Humanitarian Appeals. Against this background we would like to raise two issues of importance to us. First, we welcome the fact that IOM is strengthening its humanitarian emergency response capacity at Headquarters. While we understand the budgetary restrictions involved, we urge IOM to prioritize this. Second, IOM should bring forward the work to adopt an internal policy for its humanitarian activities as well as an internal definition of what constitutes humanitarian assistance, ~~as was suggested by a study commissioned by Sweden two years ago.~~ in order to increase its effectiveness in that area.

Thank you