

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

Ms. Ndioro Ndiaye

at the Ninetieth Session of the Council

29 November – 2 December 2005

Geneva

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Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished delegates,

1. I am happy to be in your midst today for this Council session, the theme of which is of capital importance and is crucial to the proper conduct of our work.
2. I should like to congratulate you Mr President, together with the other Officers, on your election to lead the work of our Council.
3. Allow me to convey our full appreciation to the outgoing President, Ambassador de Alba, and his team of officers, for their devotion to our work over the past year. I have no doubt that the discussions he began will form the groundwork for better grasping the changes needed in the functioning of our organization.
4. I would also like to greet all the delegations present here today, and to welcome all our new Member States and our new observer. In receiving you, Member States are confirming their desire for openness and universality.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The first year of my second mandate has been marked by the consolidation of the budget process that we started three years ago. I must say that this exercise, although a tough one, has made for a better understanding amongst us, and has also signalled our determination to be transparent *vis-à-vis* all our States, including donors and beneficiaries.
6. Although you have confirmed zero nominal growth, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to you again to re-examine the matter favourably, so that by adopting zero real growth you would enable us to respond adequately and efficiently to your requests.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. In 2005, we did make some headway with our agenda to highlight the interrelationship between migration and development.
8. Indeed, whichever field of development you may choose, be it the education, health or private sector, to name just a few, our concern over the past six years has been to underscore the added value that the vital forces of migration could generate in the development policies of developed as well as developing countries.

9. Substantial progress has been made in the health sector by drawing on health personnel from the diaspora to build technical capacities and human resources in the health systems of countries of origin (e.g. MIDA between Europe and Africa, and between Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America).

10. The same approach has been followed in the education sector, where university networks in the diaspora are beginning to intervene in their spheres of competence to raise the level of performance of the education systems in migrants' countries of origin (e.g., between Europe and Africa).

11. The private sector too is doing its part, especially with respect to good economic governance, with investments in joint ventures using funds remitted by migrants (e.g., in Asia and Central America).

12. Naturally, the accomplishments in that regard have prompted us to propose to our Member States that they should build migration into their development programmes and policies.

13. Migration indicators are now under study and will in time make it possible to evaluate the potential impact of such an exercise on the various policies being followed by developing countries.

14. A major awareness-building campaign is also underway amongst Heads of State and Government, as well as political decision-makers and development partners so as to draw their attention to the importance of making migration a component of their respective development strategies, and in particular of their PRSPs and their MDGs.

15. In the next phase we will be exploring the possibility of developing a systemic analytical model that integrates the vital forces of migration into the development programmes of some countries that are keen to improve the performances of their health, education and private sectors between 2005 and 2010 when the next evaluation of PRSPs and MDGs is scheduled.

16. In the same endeavour to place migration on international agendas both within and outside the United Nations system, special efforts have been deployed this year in various forums to highlight the developmental impact of migration, in particular amongst Small Island Developing States in the wake of the tsunami. This has led to a strengthening of our relations with the **Caribbean/Caricom countries**.

17. Moreover, this type of cooperation has enabled us to disseminate and share information relevant to improved migration management within the regional processes in which we participate regularly. In that regard, I wish to congratulate the member countries of the Puebla Process and of MIDSA on their accomplishments, which are so positively influencing developments in MIDWA.

18. Similarly, we have strengthened our cooperation with the **ACP countries** and are now preparing an action plan in the context of the review of the Cotonou Agreement. It seems important to us in the context of the negotiations between Europe, Africa and the Caribbean, and specifically with regard to Articles 13, 79 and 80, as well as in the framework of talks underway between sub-Saharan Africa, the Mediterranean and Europe. Strategic frameworks are either now being adopted or are being implemented.

19. One of our major concerns in these collaborative frameworks is the possibility of forging genuine partnership between countries sending and receiving migrants so that the countries may be able to grasp the problems of migration with the greatest possible chance of mutual understanding. You will agree with me that these conditions can only exist if we build the capacities of all countries of origin so as to equip them with the best tools that are indispensable to better migration management. This is why we insist on education in all areas that are of concern to us. Lastly, the past year has been rich in partnerships with institutions originating in civil society and the diaspora, including **IntEnt, Africa Recruit, ENDA, Avenir Nepad**. We hope that these partnerships will help us to expand and consolidate our action to further the integration of diasporas in their host countries, as well as to boost their contribution to the social and economic development of their country of origin.

20. This review would not be complete if I neglected to mention, and not without some pride, our activities pertaining to gender.

21. Impressive progress has been made in that field in recent years thanks to a dynamic and efficient team that regularly organizes meetings, workshops, and produces written documents and videos in our various areas of endeavour, namely migration/gender and development, gender and trafficking, gender and AIDS, etc.

22. Our latest international intervention had to do with gender/migration and the millennium development goals, and the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues, Mrs Rachel Mayanja, will be taking the conclusions to the next United Nations High-level Dialogue in 2006.

Ladies and gentlemen,

23. Throughout 2006 I shall continue to help raise the profile of IOM in international forums. Accordingly, preparations for the forthcoming United Nations High-level Dialogue will account for a substantial part of my activities in the way of groundwork and building awareness amongst States. This process is already under way in the African Union and will be continued in the Francophonie at the next France-Africa Summit on 3 and 4 December 2005. I also furthered the process during my recent meeting with the GRULAC Ambassadors here in Geneva.

24. My activities for 2006 will therefore fall into two broad categories:

- **International cooperation and multilateral activities:** in partnership with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the Government of Benin, we are making preparations for a Ministerial Conference in Cotonou in February 2006 on the topic of money remittances by migrants. It will be an opportunity to examine, together with the Ministers present and the migrants themselves, and to seek ways and means of enabling the countries of origin of those migrants to benefit from the funds transferred. The sharing of experiences with countries that do not fall into this category will be strongly encouraged. Beyond the controversy surrounding official development aid, it will be interesting to hear the views of those in charge of financial matters in those countries on such a topical issue.

We will be continuing the cooperation started with international bodies within the United Nations system and of course outside it, in particular with the University Agency of La Francophonie and its Commonwealth counterpart, so as to advance our diaspora skill mobility programme.

- **Technical cooperation at the domestic level:** we will be continuing our endeavours to build the capacities of our Member States for the sake of better migration management in fields that could interest our donors. We will also be moving forward with the implementation of Migration and Development indicators and in building a model for the integration of migration into the PRSPs. This latter endeavour will undoubtedly be difficult and time-consuming, and leaves many a colleague puzzled if not doubtful. Yet I remain convinced that this represents one of the future lines of action in migration and development.

Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished delegates,

25. I should like to conclude by turning to a project that has been in progress for some time now but which I think merits our full attention in many respects. It is our strategy document. IOM has evolved considerably in terms of the number and quality of its Member States on the one hand, but also in terms of the complexity of the services being requested by those Member States, and in a rapidly changing environment.

26. It seems to me that consensus-based texts and guidelines more in step with our times would help our Administration to manage IOM with greater fairness, equality and transparency.

27. I wish you a pleasant stay amongst us and I hope that your discussions will be fruitful and enriching.

I thank you.