

H. F. Embassador *Luiza Andressen Guimarães*  
Permanent Representative of  
PORTUGAL  
IOM 101 Council Session

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Señora Directora-General Adjunta

Portugal aligns itself with the statement previously made by the European Union.

First of all, allow me to commend you, Mr. Director-General, for your able leadership and for the excellent report you presented to us on Tuesday. I would also like to extend my congratulations to Ambassador Hannan, for his appointment as Chair of this Council. A special word of gratitude for his skilful work is due Ambassador Strohal as former chair of the Council.

I am also happy for having the opportunity to welcome the new Member States to the Organization: Myanmar and Saint Vincent and the Granadines.

Over the last few years, IOM pursued a comprehensive reform that significantly advanced its capacities to respond to the complex and increasingly demanding challenges of our times. Maintaining its high standards on delivering results in its multidimensional fields of activities, IOM took important steps to enhance accountability and good governance that are reflected on yet another zero nominal growth budget. In this regard, we would like to praise the Director-General for that and encourage him to continue on its ambitious path.

In these times of economic and financial challenges, both states and international organizations face inevitable budgetary constraints. To tackle this situation, we need to make a full and adequate use of existing resources, streamlining our activities and promoting a more enhanced articulation with the ones developed by other international organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

The last 2 years must be acknowledged as the most challenging in the humanitarian field.

Amidst serious humanitarian crisis in the MENA region and in the Horn of Africa, IOM played a crucial role, providing assistance to the evacuation of migrants and bringing refugees and IDPs to safety. Taking stock from that major migration crises, IOM undertook a process of internal reorganization of its methods in order to meet the evolving complexity and magnitude of these crisis. The result of that process was the “Operational Framework of IOM for Migration Crisis”, a very valuable and timely document to which we would like here to express our full support along the terms of the Resolution adopted by consensus in the first day of this Council.

Mr. Chairman,

Development issues must be recognized as a fundamental element of migration policies, in the very same way that international migration needs must become an integral part of our international development agenda.

We support IOM for establishing a stronger link between migration and development as a strategic focus of its work. We firmly believe that, when and if managed effectively, migration can give a positive contribution to the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, whether through the application of migrant’s new competencies and skills or through the transfer of savings and remittances.

Increasing dialogue on international migration and development is a crucial issue on our global agenda. The 2013 UNGA High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will certainly be an important opportunity to consolidate that debate, and IOM’s contribution will be most welcomed. In this context, we support the enhanced and more systematic contribution of the IOM to the High Level Dialogue and other relevant UN bodies and processes, such as the Global Migration Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Portugal's national policies on international migration have evolved considerably, since we joined IOM in 1975 having been acknowledged as a good example by the 2010 World Migration Report, the UN Report on Human Development, but also by some independent studies, such as the Migrant Integration Policy Index. Currently, in Portugal, migrants account for 4% of the total population.

As in other moments of our long History as a Nation State, Portugal continues its tradition of also being a country of emigration. We are now going again through a period where we have more nationals leaving the country, including towards the Southern hemisphere, than the flow of migrants that we receive. We believe that that puts us in a particularly good position to capture and understand in a comprehensive manner the migration and human mobility phenomena in its multidimensional aspects and we would like to continue to contribute with our experience to IOM's action and objectives.

I thank you