

Draft UK Statement at IOM Council, 27-30 November 2012

[General introductory comments]

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour to take the floor at this 101st Session of the IOM Council. The UK fully aligns itself with the statement made earlier on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Let me begin by extending my thanks to the Director-General for his leadership and direction of the organisation. We welcome and continue to support his efforts to enhance the IOM's overall effectiveness. On behalf of the UK I would like to commend also the IOM staff for their dedication and hard work, often in very difficult or dangerous situations. And we join others in welcoming the countries who have just become members of the organisation.

Mr Chairman,

[UK/IOM bilateral]

The UK highly values its close partnership with the IOM, which covers a broad range of areas from returns projects and refugee resettlement in the UK, to combating trafficking, and humanitarian work. Much of this work is undertaken in close partnership with other IOM Member States. Just a few of the many examples include:

- Working in partnership with the IOM and the governments of Greece and Turkey to support Assisted Voluntary Return programmes for migrants in those countries;
- Co-funding with the Australian government a community action project in Sri Lanka;
- And working with the IOM to provide post-arrival assistance and re-integration programmes in Afghanistan.

Moreover, the UK has offered continued strong support to the IOM's efforts to repatriate Third-Country-Nationals from Libya following the revolution, and, like others we highly commend the IOM for its rapid and effective response to the migration emergency we saw in that region. The UK is also pleased that as part of the package announced by the Prime Minister in his recent visit to Jordan, £0.5 million has been allocated to IOM to assist with the transportation of Syrian refugees from the Syrian border to the Za'atri refugee camp in Jordan.

[IOM Reform and future direction]

The UK believes that the IOM's strength lies in its approach to operational service delivery, with its flexible and rapid response capacity - the new emergency migration funding mechanism will help in this regard. IOM's experience in the field allows it to develop high quality migration management and capacity building projects that are of benefit to all Member States, whether they are destination, transit or origin countries for migrants. The UK encourages the IOM to further consolidate its position as a leader in this field. To this end, the UK fully supports the IOM's adoption of the Migration Crisis Operational Framework, which should provide greater efficiency and effectiveness in managing increasingly complex migration crises.

The UK has been a firm supporter of the restructuring and reform process undertaken by the Director-General and Deputy Director-General. The field-level reorganisation, as well as human resources reforms will lead to the development of a stronger, leaner, and even more flexible organisation.

The UK's Department for International Development has agreed a business case with IOM covering the next 3 years. Our support will focus on strengthening IOM's emergency response capacity, strengthening its cluster leadership role, and improving its project management and monitoring & evaluation capacity. DFID will be conducting an update to the UK Multilateral Aid Review during 2013 and looks forward to working with IOM on this and seeing the progress that has been made on the identified areas for organisational strengthening.

Mr Chairman,

[Budgetary issues]

In the context of the ongoing extremely difficult global economic climate, the UK has to take tough measures to control and reduce public spending. The UK expects therefore that the partners we work with will be actively ensuring value for money and efficiency. In this context, we welcome the decision of the IOM to put forward a Zero Nominal Growth administrative budget for 2013-14 and would encourage the organisation to continue to prioritise and ensure efficient as well as effective delivery of its services.

The UK recognises the challenges that a ZNG budget entails, has been participating fully in the discussion on budget reform, and supports efforts to find alternative sources of funding.

Mr Chairman,

[General Conclusion]

We appreciate this opportunity to take part in the discussion of the current and future challenges faced both by the Organisation, and by its members. I would like to conclude by thanking again IOM staff around the world for their continued commitment to delivering for the organisation in often demanding conditions.

Thank you.