

IOM Council – HU statement

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

We appreciate the excellent cooperation between IOM and the Hungarian Government during the last two decades and would like to express our satisfaction with IOM's engagement and its swift and well calibrated approach towards the ever-changing patterns in the field of migration, as well as its rapid response, and close collaboration with other actors in the international humanitarian response system.

The High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in New York in October 2013 has confirmed the growing political importance of migration and the role of the IOM as the leading intergovernmental organization committed to promoting humane and orderly migration. The discussions at the High-Level Dialogue have also underlined the strong linkages between migration and development. Therefore, we are in favour of having a strong reference to the necessary links between these two areas in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Another important step towards changing the international humanitarian response system will be the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul in 2016. Hungary is honoured to host the so-called „Europe and Others“ regional preparatory conference of the Summit on 3-4 February next year. We will organize it together with Finland, OCHA and DG ECHO of the European Commission. We are happy to have IOM on the Regional Steering Group that is tasked to prepare the conference, IOM's involvement ensures that migration-related issues are properly examined and addressed during the preparations and the conference itself. We hope that this conference, through its conclusions and recommendations, will substantially contribute to the overall success of the Summit in Istanbul.

Mr. Chairperson,

One of the most important global migration challenges today is the crisis in Syria and in the neighbouring countries. Hungary has been contributing to the humanitarian solutions in numerous occasions, on a bilateral basis and through multilateral channels alike. Hungary has also stepped up to resettle Syrian refugees in order to join European efforts and to provide them with a durable solution.

Another important global challenge is statelessness. Hungary has contributed financially and with expertise to the First Global Forum on Statelessness in September 2014 in The Hague and we hope that in the future the community of participating States will continue to grow.

As we heard it yesterday from the Director General, 95% of the staff of IOM works in the field under very difficult circumstances, harsh security conditions, often risking their own lives in order to help others in need. Therefore we greatly appreciate the steps taken by IOM to improve security measures and on behalf of the Hungarian delegation, let me thank IOM staff members for their commitment and selfless work.

Finally, let me refer to the meaningful cooperation between Hungary and IOM by drawing attention to our successful projects. Hungary has taken part in the Voluntary Return European Network platform and has been participating in the Assisted Voluntary Return programmes, coordinated by the Budapest Office of the IOM that has been running for more than a decade. The IOM Office in Budapest was also active in the pilot project of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative focusing on labour matching and is active in the pilot project focusing on mobility of students, both in the area of legal migration. Hungary has also been cooperating in the framework of the Budapest Process since its inception, acting now as co-chair of the process, in the frame of which the Silk Routes Partnership has given a new, revitalizing impetus to this regional consultation process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson!