



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mr. William Lacy Swing

at the Fifth Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance

27 October 2009

Geneva

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Excellencies, distinguished representatives of IOM Member States, dear colleagues,

1. It is an honour and a pleasure to meet with the distinguished delegations of IOM Member States at this Fifth Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance (SCPF).

2. I would like to begin by expressing, on behalf of my colleagues and the staff of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), our sincere appreciation to our Chairperson, Ambassador Mundaraín (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), for his efficient leadership of IOM's Council and this Standing Committee. He is joined by his Vice-Chairperson, Ambassador Kitajima (Japan), Second Vice-Chairperson, Ambassador Jazairy (Algeria) and Rapporteur, Mr. Weidinger (Austria).

3. I would like to welcome our new Deputy Director General, Ambassador Laura Thompson, who, like I, is committed to making this great organization even better. We have been working together, supporting one another, and I want to record today my appreciation and acknowledgment of the great benefits that IOM is already harvesting from her leadership.

I. INTRODUCTION

4. Distinguished delegates, this month marks the beginning of my second year at IOM, and I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you some of my reflections before I get into the specifics of our agenda.

5. When I came on board one year ago, I arrived with very high expectations. I had joined an Organization that had made bold strides to strengthen its impact around the world – you have heard me speak about IOM's exponential growth across the board in its membership, staffing, offices, projects, and overall operating budget. I said at that time that, while we would continue to change and innovate, it would be prudent to build on what had already been achieved, and this is what we have sought to do.

6. My expectations have in many ways been surpassed. I can say with confidence that the IOM network is genuinely unique; the enthusiasm of its staff exceptional; and the Organization's ability to connect with its partners and migrants without rival.

7. The staff of this great Organization, and indeed you, our Member States, also had high expectations of me. During the past year, we launched three major initiatives which have placed a heavy burden on the shoulders of my IOM colleagues, and you, the Member States: (1) a proposed Structure Review; (2) Staff Rotation; and (3) Budget Reform. I'll address each of these in a moment. For my part, I have tried and remain determined to continue to strengthen the support that Member States and IOM staff merit from me and all of us at Headquarters. I am committed to improving the services that this Organization provides to its membership, as well as the working conditions of our dedicated IOM colleagues worldwide.

8. In my first year, it has also become clear to me that, over the past decade, migration has emerged as a geopolitical issue and is on the agenda of virtually every country in the world. It is globalization and the communications revolution that have launched today's movement of people (214 million international migrants or nearly one billion if we factor the 740 million

internal migrants); however, it is current global demographics, labour markets, and economic trends, along with climate change, that will ensure continuing large-scale flows of people throughout the 21st century.

9. To underscore this point, during the United Nations General Assembly High Level segment – which I had the honour of attending – no fewer than 65 of the 192 statements (that is one of every three) by Heads of State, Heads of Government and ministers mentioned migration-related issues – climate change, the global financial crisis and the decline in remittances, human trafficking, refugees and IDPs, labour migration, and resettlement and integration of migrants.

10. Moreover, from my recent visits to London, Rabat, Washington, Brussels, and last week Kampala – to attend the African Union Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa – it was abundantly clear that migration remains high on national agendas; and I believe that for that, a strong IOM, as the world's migration agency, is needed.

II. AGENDA ITEMS

Excellencies, distinguished representatives of IOM Member States, dear colleagues,

11. Let me turn now to our agenda items.

Item 3: Outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget

12. I have made a concerted effort to address the matter of outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget since assuming office. I have written and called on Permanent Missions in Geneva of Member States subject to Article 4 of the Constitution to propose an innovative payment scheme as a remedial measure.

13. My IOM colleagues in respective capitals are also, simultaneously, actively addressing the outstanding fees issue. I commend those delegations that are seeking to settle their overdue contributions; however, the amounts outstanding remain significant, and I urge those countries to work with the Administration on payment plans, including payments in local currencies, where applicable.

Item 4: Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2009

14. The next agenda item, Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2009, illustrates that IOM's yearly budget is in the region of USD 1.0 billion. This amount includes additional funds for ongoing projects and new activities initiated since approval of the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2009 last Spring. The Administrative Part of the Budget, however, remains unchanged in the amount of CHF 38,806,000. This level of budget requires strong administrative structures and oversight to maintain the quality of projects while ensuring that appropriate internal control measures are established to ensure accountability and to safeguard assets of the Organization.

15. In the terms of anticipated Discretionary Income (DI), the figure has been revised upwards from USD 35.0 million to USD 41.0 million. The increase of USD 6.0 million is principally due to the overhead income generated from a higher budget level and additional income generated through low risk short-term investments. The additional DI is directed mostly

to the 1035 Facility, PRISM maintenance, staff safety and security, and a number of unforeseen and unbudgeted activities.

Item 5: Programme and Budget for 2010

16. The next item is the Programme and Budget for 2010. This is the first budget presented since I assumed office. As such, it reflects my overall objective of building trust and confidence with Member States through, *inter alia*, increasing transparency both inside and outside the Organization.

17. Some changes have been made simply to bring greater clarity and ultimately better understanding of the Programme and Budget document. At the core of this document, however, is the perennial issue of funding of the core structure, which supports the entire Organization.

18. In highlighting the need to build cost-effective structures that will adequately support the work of IOM, I am ever mindful of the global economic crisis and the difficulties Member States experience. Accordingly, I have outlined two scenarios for your consideration: the first representing an increase of 2.55 per cent (budget level of CHF 39,794,000) and the second an increase of 25.74 per cent (budget level of CHF 48,794,000) under the Administrative Part of the Budget.

19. I am confident that we can arrive at a mutually satisfactory outcome in our deliberations in order to have our budget approved for 2010, and thereafter to continue discussions on budget reform, as suggested by a number of delegations.

20. The Operational Part of the Budget is estimated at USD 650.6 million; this represents an increase of USD 19.1 million compared to the same time last year, when the original 2009 budget totalled USD 631.5 million. The projected DI of USD 41 million is estimated on the formula agreed by Member States on the basis of a three-year average.

Item 6: Proposed Structure Review

21. Regarding the next agenda item, the Proposed Structure Review, on which we have made a series of presentations, I would like to reiterate that the Review brings together the priorities I announced when assuming my mandate – to ensure and enhance Member State ownership of the Organization; to forge and strengthen partnerships; and to ensure professional staff development.

22. The proposed Structure Review is designed to make the best use of our human and financial resources through (a) consolidation of structures in the Field; and (b) greater coherence at Headquarters. The new structure also focuses on establishing clearer reporting lines, greater uniformity of structures, and improved oversight of activities at Headquarters and in the Field. It is my sincere hope that Member States will support this initiative. If Member States endorse the broad objectives of the Review, I am committed to working with you throughout the implementation stage.

Item 7: Appointment of External Auditors for the period 2010-2012

23. Regarding the agenda on the Appointment of External Auditors for the period 2010-2012, I would first like to express appreciation to the Office of the Auditor General of Norway for the efficient manner in which they have conducted the External Audit of IOM over the last nine years. In addition to the regular audit work, the External Auditors provided valuable counsel on

improving the Organization's financial reporting. They also undertook specific assignments; these included, *inter alia*, an assessment of our PRISM system during the development phase and, more recently, an evaluation of our Administrative Centres in Panama and Manila.

24. A decision on the appointment of External Auditors rests with you, the Member States. The Administration has provided you with all available information on which to make an objective assessment of the candidates, and my colleagues remain at your disposal for any questions you have. In the meantime, I wish to thank all of the governments that proposed candidates for this very important function. I hope that the SCPF will be able to submit a recommendation to the Council for approval.

Item 8: Exchange of views on items proposed by the Membership

25. On the matter of item 8 of the agenda, Exchange of views on subjects you proposed for this session, I trust we will have a rich discussion that will help direct IOM's activities.

(i) IOM's oversight and evaluation mechanisms

26. The first topic under this agenda item focuses on IOM's oversight and evaluation mechanisms which encompass diversified fields of activity, tools and methodologies.

27. Oversight is a key activity that ensures that the Organization operates in compliance with legislative mandates and policy, in full accountability for its finances, and in accordance with the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and ethics.

28. Evaluation is designed to provide an objective assessment of ongoing or completed projects, programmes, or policies, and their design, implementation and results. The aim is to determine the relevance and fulfilment of objectives, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. IOM's oversight and evaluation functions seek to bring quality and accountability in the way the Organization conducts its business and I look forward to a renewed impetus in strategic thinking, project development and innovative oversight practices over the coming years.

(ii) Efforts to enhance capacity for border management

29. The second topic relates to IOM's efforts to enhance capacity for border management, which has become an important development goal nationally and regionally as countries seek greater efficiencies to support economic growth through improved trade and human mobility.

30. All border management agencies face the challenge of balancing the need for effective regulatory controls and the need to facilitate across borders the movement of goods, services and people.

31. IOM continues to play a leading role in border management and has developed a capacity-building programme to support border management infrastructure, systems and training. IOM has established working partnerships with several international agencies and organizations, including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), INTERPOL, OSCE and FRONTEX.

32. I am keen to see our border management programme benefit from some Member States' innovative border reforms in areas such as biometrics and automated border management

systems. I would encourage interested Member States to consider the secondment to IOM of experts to help us promote inter-State cooperation and border management capacity.

Item 9: Support for developing Member States and Member States with economy in transition – 1035 Facility

33. The 1035 Facility has proven to be a fast, flexible and responsive tool to address the immediate concerns of Member States. I appreciate Member States' continued support of this Facility. I would like once again to highlight the contributions by the Governments of Italy and Spain late last year, which were both carried forward to 2009. I would also like to acknowledge the voluntary contributions provided to the Facility by the Governments of Austria, Belgium and the United States of America. I encourage other Member States to consider similar contributions.

Item 10: Statement by a representative of the Staff Association

34. Concerning the Statement by a representative of the Staff Association Committee (SAC), I wish to reiterate my personal commitment to the work of the Committee. As demonstrated over the past year, I will continue to work closely with the Committee to address staff concerns and to provide all appropriate support to ensure the best possible conditions for IOM staff.

Item 11: Report on human resources

35. The Report on human resources provides you with a variety of information on human resources matters, personnel policies and services, and a statistical overview of staffing. The statistical data underlines the Administration's efforts to address nationality and gender disparities among IOM staff.

36. IOM staff are our most important asset, and I am committed to establishing a fair and transparent HR system and providing opportunities to staff for learning and professional development. In this regard, a number of rotation decisions over the past year have been implemented with the view to spread knowledge and give opportunity to staff to learn about different areas of the Organization's work. I am also pleased that efforts to improve the working conditions of staff in the Field have been advanced with the extension of health insurance coverage to national staff. The implementation of regular periodic medical examinations for all Field staff is in its final phase.

Conclusion

37. Distinguished delegates, this brings me to the end of my statement. I look forward to hearing your views and to engaging in a productive discussion on this rich agenda. We look to you, our Member States, for your encouragement and support in providing us with the tools to be able to carry out our important migration mandate to the benefit of governments and migrants worldwide.