

MICEM/7/2004

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mr. Brunson McKinley

at the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council

30 November – 3 December 2004

Geneva

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Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

1. ***Capacity-building for migration management*** is a shared need among all our membership. Whether old hands at migration or relatively new to the challenges, all of us see the need to strengthen and refine our capacities for coping with and benefiting from the rapidly changing migration dynamics of the twenty-first century.
2. Our ***migration dialogue at the IOM Council*** is one way to build mutual capacity. Through it we inform one another of our needs and problems and exchange views on policy options and pragmatic solutions.
3. At this Council session we have presented the ***Essentials of Migration Management***, a handbook and tool for policy makers and programme managers and one that can be used in the academies where the next generation of leaders will learn the basics of the comprehensive approach to migration management.
4. Next spring we shall publish the third edition of the ***World Migration Report***. This document has become a point of reference for scholars and serves as a textbook in schools and universities. The new WMR has the same theme as this Council -- Valuing Migration.
5. IOM's strengthened focus on ***International Migration Law*** will enable governments and civil society to achieve a thorough understanding of international legal instruments and reinforce the expertise of the legal community through new training efforts in migration law. The new ***Migration Glossary*** is a first product of IML.
6. ***The Berne Initiative's*** International Agenda for Migration Management – that most of you and we have worked on – is set to become a framework and guide for effective migration management and can reinforce IOM's work in your countries and across the international dimension.
7. Looking more broadly, the many ***regional processes*** we support can be viewed as an important engine of capacity-building. They allow governments to develop the tools of cooperation without which efforts to manage international migration rarely succeed.
8. New ideas in the field of ***labour migration*** are taking hold. The capacity to manage a global market in talent and manpower will be a crucial element in the success or failure of the global economy. ***Analysis of the labour needs*** of industrialized and other relatively prosperous countries is a first step towards rational programmes to fill those needs. Labour-surplus countries can then prepare themselves better to meet those needs. Programmes for ***recruiting foreign talent*** to work in developed economies exist in various forms and locations, but many require refinement and expansion to pass beyond the pilot stage. More and more we see ***women migrating independently*** but our systems are ill equipped to address their needs.

9. *Migrant diasporas* can be a mine of talent and resources for developing countries as well as a growing factor in the functioning of the world economy. Systems for the better, more productive use of *remittance flows* need to be developed to benefit both migrant families and their home countries. We shall study this topic in our next policy seminar, *Migration and Development*.

10. Migration in the twenty-first century challenges *the capacity of societies to integrate migrants* of a different culture and religion, especially as the idea of permanent stay and assimilation weakens. Managing “life-cycle migration” requires rethinking, even on the part of well-established immigration countries with a different tradition. For many migrants, work abroad is part of a strategy that culminates in successful return home. Other migrants aspire to *multiple nationalities*. We need to have several integration models in our inventory -- and the capacity to manage them.

11. Much could be said about the need for enhancing capacity to regulate migration. The struggle to abolish *trafficking and smuggling* is far from won. Clandestine migration networks develop wherever international cooperation is weak. Those who exploit and abuse the desire of irregular migrants to improve their lot are resourceful and their business is prospering. The international community must become more active and better focused to counter clandestinity through *comprehensive policies* that take the market away from the unscrupulous.

12. In many countries, security concerns have begun to impinge adversely on international travel, work and study. *Biometric identity documents* may be an answer to faster border crossing by legitimate travellers. We need to broaden international capacity to use smart documents.

13. The role of IOM in capacity-building is to serve as a *catalyst, intermediary and partner* for governments and other international players. We have upgraded our cooperation with GMG partners, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization and other organizations committed to better management of economic migration.

14. Looking at our own capacity, it is clear to me that we must refine our skills in *project development and implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation*.

15. In sum, a broad and concerted effort is required to get the world ready for the significant new challenges of migration in the era of the global economy. We have a lot of work to do together.