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STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

Ms. Ndioro Ndiaye

at the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council

27 – 30 November 2007

Geneva

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Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is my honour and pleasure to address you all today at the Ninety-fourth Council Session of IOM.
2. I would like to extend my special appreciation to the outgoing Chairperson, H.E. Mrs. Najat Al-Hajjaji, the Ambassador of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for her efforts and commitment that allowed us all to move forward and conclude the debate on the IOM strategy. Truly, this has been an important achievement for IOM and the Member States and we applaud her for this.
3. I would also like to congratulate the new Chairperson of the Council, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio March, Ambassador of Spain, and his bureau on their election. I would like to reiterate my commitment and support to him as he leads the work of the IOM Council on issues that are immensely crucial to IOM's future development and long-term vision and strategy.
4. I wish to welcome our newest Member States, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam with whom we have had about twenty years of cooperation and the Republic of Burundi with whom cooperation has been ongoing since 2001, within the framework of the MIDA Great Lakes programme. I am confident that the membership of Burundi and Viet Nam will pave the way for further broadening of our migration management agenda and help put in place programmes and activities of particular relevance to their development.
5. My congratulations to Africa Recruit, the Refugee Education Trust (RET) and *Femmes Africa Solidarité* (FAS) on their observership status with IOM.
6. I would also like to greet all the delegations present here, many of whom have travelled from afar to attend the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. My statement to the Council today will focus on four issues. The first concerns the use of migration as an effective tool towards poverty reduction and the need for policy coherence, a message that was voiced by many delegates during the High-Level Dialogue in 2006 as well as the Global Forum on Migration and Development in July 2007. My statements to the Council in 2005 and 2006 have consistently called upon Heads of State and governments, and upon development partners to focus their attention in this area. Migration is as complex and multidimensional a phenomenon and process as development is and this has direct consequences on the policy choices to be made.

8. Therefore, mainstreaming migration into national development agendas, as well as keeping the focus on establishing long-term coherent strategies to eradicate poverty, represents a challenge for many governments, particularly the countries of origin. Very few governments, in my view, have been able to address this challenge in a coherent way and most of them do not have a clear understanding of the relationship between migration and development.

9. National migration policies and policy coherence require coordinated actions amongst various government programmes and ministries to fill the lack of inter-institutional cooperation; they also require better collaboration between the policies of home countries and those of host countries, and between the governments and the international community.

10. In Lisbon, just this month, many governments argued for the inclusion of climate change in national development frameworks, particularly as regards the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, as well as a stronger commitment to implement Millennium Development Goal No. 7 on environment. How do we take this agenda forward and what are the next steps?

11. Our experience tells us that the best way to construct coherence is for governments to organize national meetings. I propose to organize such meetings that could provide appropriate technical support and advisory services to governments in setting up inter-ministerial national committees charged with formulating national policies on migration as well as creating economic models of migration management, such as through the Threshold 21 model from the Millennium Institute, with sectoral plans that could contribute to economic and social development. I am convinced that placing migration on the development agenda in this manner is one evident way of advancing development.

12. IOM, primarily through funds made available by the 1035 Facility, is trying to assist governments to pursue this integrated approach in a few pilot countries (e.g. Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Mauritius). In Asia, countries such Bangladesh and the Philippines have made progress and are seeking IOM's technical and financial support to advance the process forward. Latin America is also interested in advancing the agenda on migration and development. Indeed, this process must become systematic for Africa, Asia and Latin America.

13. Most importantly, the recent evaluation of the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme as an illustration of IOM's approach to making migration work for development has reaffirmed the relevance of MIDA to IOM's mandate, in particular to its Constitution and to the new strategy document adopted by its Member States. Once again, I urge all our Member States, the IOM Administration and in particular the donor governments to invest in MIDA and help facilitate the flow of funds toward this programme.

14. Ladies and Gentlemen, my second point touches upon the diaspora. 2006-2007 has witnessed many meetings in various European countries on the need for better diaspora policies, for cost-effective methods of financial transfer and for the setting up of appropriate structures in order to achieve a common understanding and agreements between home and host countries, by investing in the potential that the diaspora has to offer.

15. Under the auspices of the German Government, specifically the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the conference "Migration and Labour - How to balance the interests of countries of

destination and of origin?" took place in Berlin in June 2007, to discuss as one of its issues, remittances enhancing the developmental impact of migration. In November 2007, under the incumbent Portuguese Presidency of the European Council, the EU Development Days conference addressed the challenges of climate change on development cooperation in Europe, where I was given the opportunity to highlight the ways in which migrants and diaspora members can help prevent environmental degradation.

16. Allow me to also to commend the African Union, and the Government of South Africa in particular, for having organized five diaspora regional consultative conferences this year in Brasilia (April 2007); London (April 2007); New York (June 2007); Paris (September 2007); and in Bridgetown, Barbados (October 2007). These conferences were followed by continent-wide consultations in Addis Ababa (October 2007) which prepared the way for ministerial consultations in South Africa a couple of weeks ago (November 2007). The plan of action to which this process has led will be adopted during the Extraordinary Summit to be convened in early 2008. I would encourage you all to read these reports and play a proactive role in supporting the efforts of the diaspora worldwide.

17. Late in 2006 and all through 2007, IOM engaged in a series of diplomatic events entitled the Diaspora Dialogues and drawn from this plan of action. Not only do these dialogues confirm the diaspora's commitment; they allow for a broader collaboration in various fields of development. We have seen the positive results of diaspora involvement in China, India and Latin America. We can strengthen a country's capacities by tapping into their resources abroad.

18. Diasporas will be most interested in contributing to development efforts in both origin and host country when they have a sense of belonging and are recognized as key development partners and investors. In order to achieve this, both origin and host governments must invest in their diasporas abroad, identifying and understanding their skills and interests. Building constructive relationships between countries of origin, host countries and diasporas requires that migrants be treated not as a mere resource, but as development partners and investors.

19. The issue of gender which I will expand upon next is also relevant to the diaspora. Mainstreaming gender in national policies is required because gender is a supplementary force in the diaspora that cannot be overlooked. Not only does it take into account vulnerable women and their needs, it also involves highly skilled women and takes into consideration their contributions to their home and host countries. In particular, women in the diaspora can be of instrumental help in advancing national migrant integration policies. To this effect, IOM will soon be launching a diaspora database of skilled migrants, both men and women.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

20. In terms of mainstreaming gender in IOM's programmes and staffing activities, as you are aware, an evaluation was conducted last year on the results of ten years of implementation of the gender mainstreaming policy. In this connection, I should personally wish here to thank Denise Glasscock, who retired in March 2007, for her efforts and hard work within IOM for which she should have received the DG Award for services rendered to the Organization.

21. This evaluation has been a very interesting exercise. It has challenged our understanding of IOM's situation and has forced us to rethink IOM's action towards the promotion of women among IOM staff and the inclusion of gender concerns in our programmes and activities.
22. Following the evaluation, the gender officer conducted an Organization-wide consultation of senior staff members, gender focal points and members of the Working Group on Gender Issues (WGGI) to gather their views and recommendations on how to address weaknesses and gaps in the current policy. Our gender coordinator analysed their contribution and has prepared a strategy document to revitalize the gender mainstreaming policy in IOM.
23. During the last UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2007, which focused on addressing discrimination against female children, IOM insisted on the need to improve education for girls as a strategy to prevent trafficking, an important service that IOM continues to provide worldwide.
24. WGGI aimed to do more, but ultimately, our budgetary constraints did not allow us to advance more. A larger budget equates to greater work in this area.
25. In 2008, with a focus on the research of data, the WGGI will support the inclusion of gender analysis in four IOM projects in Costa Rica, Latvia, Indonesia and Senegal. The findings of this exercise will help us make sure that IOM projects address the needs of men and women adequately and do not reproduce gender inequalities. This gender analysis shall, we hope, be a systematic step in project development.
26. It is a regrettable weakness that no staff has been hired or dedicated specifically to promote the gender agenda in IOM. Gender activities have been left to the voluntary contribution of a few members of staff who serve as gender focal points (GFP) and work on gender activities in addition to their regular duties. GFPs, in all IOM Missions worldwide have limited resources, both financial and human, and there is no budget dedicated to promote gender and migration in IOM. This is an unfortunate fact, considering the many declarations and interest promised for this subject.
27. Our Gender Officer is part of the Appointment and Posting Board to ensure proper consideration of gender priorities within IOM's hiring process. I wish to call for an improvement in the position to prove that we are giving gender the place it deserves. The new Gender Officer is young, full of goodwill and expertise; I believe we will achieve a lot during her service.
28. To make a real difference in their area of work and mission, GFPs and WGGI members need more training, more opportunities to meet with one another and to agree with the Gender Officer upon an institutional vision and workplan. Moreover, they need to be taken more seriously and with more professionalism in MRFs and field missions. This, I repeat, requires a budget and a professional team dedicated to gender and migration.
29. I call upon each one of you to make a commitment for a stronger, more dynamic and systematic inclusion of the gender dimension in migration management. Addressing the different needs of men and women, of boys and girls is a major key to face today's migration challenges.

30. Ladies and Gentlemen, a fourth and final point before closing my statement relates to governance within IOM. I wish to recollect the achievements made under H.E. Mrs. Najat Al-Hajjaji's presidency regarding the IOM strategy, governing bodies and programme and budget based on H.E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba's suggestions.

31. Despite the efforts of H.E. Mrs. Al-Hajjaji and all of you, IOM is still suffering from a lack of transparent cooperation between the Organization and Member States, which reflects upon our ability to fund and pursue our projects and programmes on the ground.

32. The past years have seen many efforts towards reforming the IOM's governing bodies in order to achieve greater transparency and promote good governance. I had clearly stated these reforms as necessary for IOM to remain a leading organization in the field of migration, and continue to do so today.

33. I would like 2008 to be the year where IOM, in close consultation with Member States, the Standing Committee and incoming Chairperson H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio March, engage in the collaboration touched upon in previous years, so that IOM's status as the leading organization on migration be not only maintained but enhanced.

34. We still have a long road ahead of us. Under your guidance, we can achieve better transparency, a better balance of our respective roles in programme management, and improve equality and professionalism in our resource management, including human resources. In short, meet the challenges for IOM's future.

Thank you.