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**DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE  
107TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

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## **DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE 107TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to welcome you to the 107th Session of the Council – a session that opens on 5 December, the same day the Organization was established 65 years ago. I welcome you on behalf of the 10,000 IOM staff members located in over 400 sites around the world.

2. Let me begin by expressing our sincere appreciation to the members of the IOM Council Bureau: the Chairperson, Ambassador Geert Muylle (Belgium); the First Vice-Chairperson, Ambassador John Paton Quinn (Australia); the Second Vice-Chairperson, Ambassador Marta Maurás (Chile); and the Rapporteur, Ambassador Mohamed Auajjar (Morocco). I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the previous Chairperson, Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrughe (Belgium), who left Switzerland to take on new responsibilities in another country.

3. This Organization is a Member State-owned body. This being the case, and as the senior elected official, I come before you each year to present a balance sheet of how I and the Administration have conducted the business of the Organization on your behalf over the 12 months since the last regular session of the Council. It is then for you to judge whether we have been good stewards of the resources that you have made available to us to manage the activities of the Organization, to assess the performance of the activities that we have undertaken and to indicate the areas in which you would like to see reforms and improvements. This report provides a somewhat more detailed account than the one I gave to the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance last month.

4. My report is presented in three parts, namely Part I: The state of migration today; Part II: The state of the Organization at 65; and Part III: The state of migration governance: a global compact on migration.

### **I. THE STATE OF MIGRATION TODAY**

5. Migration occurs today amid a troubling global trend towards narrow nationalism – even ultranationalistic policies – extreme identity politics, populism, economic protectionism and growing anti-migrant sentiment and policies. The present moment is a perplexing one – even, some would say, a dangerous moment in history – and the atmosphere extremely negative. Under attack by anti-establishment forces, multilateralism is, therefore, more important than ever. The role of your Organization is presently more critical than at perhaps any other time since its founding in 1951, and certainly since I took office in 2008.

6. Migration is a phenomenon that touches all of us. Even though the overall percentage of migrants as compared to the global population has remained stable, there are nevertheless more than 1 billion migrants today: approximately 250 million international migrants and 750 million internal migrants. Women and men, and girls and boys, from diverse backgrounds and various walks of life have moved, are moving, or will move either within their own

countries or across borders. The overall picture is very complex but some features stand out, such as the ones referred to below.<sup>1</sup>

7. New global estimates show that a large majority of international migrants in the world are migrant workers, the majority of whom are moving in a regular manner. Furthermore, while female migrants constitute only 48 per cent of international migrants worldwide – and 42 per cent in Asia – women make up the majority of international migrants in Europe (52%) and North America (51%).

8. South–South migration flows continue to grow compared to South–North movements. In 2015, 90.2 million international migrants born in developing countries resided in other countries in the global South, while 85.3 million born in the South resided in countries in the global North.

9. Remittances continue to climb globally, while remittance-sending costs remain relatively high. The sum of financial remittances sent by international migrants back to their families in origin countries will amount to an estimated USD 601 billion in 2016. This amount is more than twice the total of all foreign aid and is almost as great as all foreign direct investment (USD 654 billion) in the same year. The largest proportion of these remittances, some USD 442 billion, goes to developing countries.

10. According to the *World Migration Report 2015 – Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility*, close to one in five migrants in the world live in the top 20 largest cities. International migrants make up more than a third of the total population in cities such as Auckland, London, Singapore and Sydney, and at least one in four residents in Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Paris is foreign-born.

11. Also, we are witnessing the highest levels of forced displacement globally recorded since the Second World War, with a dramatic increase in the number of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons across all regions. The world has 65.3 million forcibly displaced people: of these, 21.3 million are refugees and some 40.8 million are internally displaced persons; another 10 million people are stateless. Annual resettlement accounts for only 1 per cent of the total refugee population; and the average stay of a refugee in camps is 17 years.

12. Although Europe continues to receive a record number of first-time asylum claims, the vast majority of refugees (86%) are still hosted by poor or developing countries, particularly those that are close to the refugees' countries of origin: for instance, an overwhelming majority of Syrian refugees are hosted by neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. For a quarter of a century, Ethiopia has hosted 700,000 refugees; Kenya, 600,000; and Sudan, 200,000. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan also have hosted large numbers of Afghan refugees for a very long time.

13. The world continues to struggle to respond to the large-scale mobility dimensions of crises. These mixed flows, made up of varying combinations of migrant workers, refugees, victims of trafficking and smuggling, stateless persons, unaccompanied children, and others in a similar plight, are unprecedented in their scale and complexity. To illustrate, IOM continues to receive requests from Member States and partners to provide humanitarian assistance to the large number of undocumented Afghans returning from Pakistan; to evacuate stranded Somalis

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<sup>1</sup> See also the IOM Global Migration Trends Factsheet: <http://iomgmdac.org/global-trends-factsheet/>.

from Yemen or migrant workers from Libya; and to carry out the voluntary repatriation, reintegration or relocation of large numbers of Somalis and other migrants from camps in Kenya. In Afghanistan, migrants are setting up informal camps on the outskirts of major cities and calling for assistance.

14. Across the Mediterranean, large-scale movements of migrants, mostly originating from sub-Saharan Africa, involve horrific journeys facilitated by criminal gangs, smugglers and traffickers. Nearly 5,000 migrants are estimated to have died or gone missing along the Mediterranean route so far in 2016. According to the IOM Missing Migrants Project, migrant fatalities during migration to Europe this year increased by 35 per cent compared with 2015, and the year is not over. In *Fatal Journeys – Volume 2*, which was published this year, IOM estimates that at least 60,000 have died since 1996 along migratory routes in all regions of the world.

15. Migrants caught up in these crisis situations require immediate humanitarian assistance. Depending on who they are and where they happen to be, they may have pressing needs for livelihood, shelter, health-care, education or other basic services. Returnees, in addition, may lack land tenure security, while host communities require special attention to dispel the perception that they are neglected, or worse still, ignored by humanitarian actors.

16. Unfortunately, there is also undeniably a global trend towards a rhetoric of fear against migration and migrants, fuelled by xenophobic and racist sentiments, and propagated by the populist agenda of politicians who seek to assume or remain in office, rather than providing evidence to help people deal rationally with their fears. In my time at IOM, I have witnessed an unsettling shift from initial indifference to migration to the scene today in which migration often plays a key role in the outcome of national elections.

17. A renewed appreciation of migrants for their collective and individual contributions to society is urgently needed. Public discourse needs to return to a more balanced and historically accurate narrative. This is best done through government-led informed, evidence-based and open dialogue – a dialogue that recognizes that migration has been, and will continue to be, a force for development; that migration and development go hand-in-hand; and that migration is humankind's oldest poverty reduction strategy.

18. The IOM "I am a migrant" campaign seeks to spread this message. The campaign has recorded and documented the personal testimonies of migrants: their frank stories of migration and displacement, but equally their inspiring accounts of how they rebuilt their lives in new environments. The campaign reminds us that migration today, as in the past, can be an enabling force. For those of us whose countries were built on the backs and with the courage of migrants, we can attest that, historically, migration has been overwhelmingly positive.

## **II. THE STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION AT 65**

### **Brief history**

19. The 107th Session of the Council coincides with the 65th anniversary of the Organization. On 5 December 1951, the International Migration Conference was convened in Brussels, and 16 of the countries in attendance decided to found the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe. IOM was born, almost at the same time as its oldest traditional partner, the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to bring European refugees to safe shores and new lives in the aftermath of the Second World War.

20. A succession of name changes followed as the Organization expanded and assumed a growing range of functions and activities: in 1952, it became the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration; in 1980, the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration; and in 1989, the International Organization for Migration. These changes reflected the Organization's gradual transition over half a century from an entity focused on logistics to a broad-based international migration agency.

21. IOM has now become the recognized leading international migration agency working with governments and civil society to advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity of migrants and improve their well-being.

22. Of lasting significance to the Organization is the decision that its Member States took at the Special Session of the Council on 30 June 2016 to approve an agreement that provided for IOM to enter the United Nations system as a related organization. As I said in my remarks, on 19 September 2016, following the ceremony for the signing of the IOM–UN Agreement with the Secretary-General, the United Nations finally, after 71 years, has its own migration agency. This is the first Council session to take place since that historic event. This meeting offers me the opportunity to renew to you my commitment to uphold the essential elements of IOM laid out in Council Resolution No. 1309 of 24 November 2015.

### **Organizational growth**

23. **Budget reform.** In recent years, the Organization has made significant headway towards strengthening its core structure. The Member State Working Group on Budget Reform has been particularly productive, delivering:

- (a) A 12 per cent increase in assessed contributions over a three-year period;
- (b) An increase in the project overhead rate from 5 to 7 per cent;
- (c) The addition of assessed contributions of new Member States to the budget;
- (d) Cost-efficiencies;
- (e) Alternative funding sources, including secondments.

24. Since 2013, and assuming the 2017 budget is approved, core staffing has increased by 53 per cent, in large part through the delocalization of many Headquarters positions to the Manila and Panama Administrative Centres, which are both in low-cost locations. It should be noted that the operation of these two Centres saves the Organization approximately USD 15 million per year. The budget reform has also enabled IOM to build the capacity of its oversight functions, including such key units as the Office of the Inspector General, the Office of the Legal Counsel and the Human Resources Management Division.

25. **Growth of IOM.** The Organization continues to grow at a significant pace. Total expenditures, which stood at USD 1.2 billion in 2013, are expected to top USD 2 billion in 2017 (which would represent a doubling of the budget since the 2008 budget of USD 1 billion). This represents an expansion of approximately 70 per cent. The growth is felt every day, as new projects are developed and added to the IOM project portfolio. This pattern is expected to continue as the global migration issues confronting leaders and governments are complex and tenacious.

26. At that same Special Session of the Council on 30 June 2016, the membership welcomed three new Member States: China, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. As you know, China has 20 per cent of the world's population and is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. And, of course, today we are pleased to greet very warmly our newest Member State, Tonga.

27. **Reconvening the Working Group on Budget Reform.** Notwithstanding progress achieved through the budget reform initiative, the significant growth of the Organization justifies a reconvening of the Working Group on Budget Reform. In late 2013, the Working Group ceased to meet regularly, but was never disbanded, and thus can easily be reactivated by its Chairperson, who is the Chairperson of the Council. The growth of the Organization is the joint responsibility of the Member States and the Administration, and the Working Group would be the appropriate forum to monitor and manage this growth.

### **Accomplishments**

28. **Migration Governance Framework.** In November 2015, the Council adopted Resolution No. 1310 to welcome the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) and request that it be used to guide the Organization's activities. IOM, in cooperation with its partners, has begun to use MiGOF as a tool for capacity-building and training, project development, and planning and reporting. IOM has also started using MiGOF to help Member States improve their governance of migration. MiGOF has already been used as the basis for: (a) the Annual Report for 2015; (b) all results-based management planning and reporting; (c) the 2016 and 2017 editions of *Migration Initiatives*; and (d) for regional and country strategies. Member States may wish to consider using this instrument for the development of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

29. I have used the MiGOF principles and objectives to present this part of my report on the accomplishments of the Organization over the past year.

### **Principles**

- ***International standards and migrants' rights***

30. **Promotion of international standards and migrants' rights.** IOM has promoted States' adherence to international standards by:

- (a) Organizing information sessions on international standards and good governance or good practices (as reported by 64 offices);
- (b) Holding consultations with various government ministries on matters related to Member States' adherence to international standards (by 55 offices);
- (c) Carrying out an assessment of the country's adherence to these standards (completed by 31 offices, in 22 instances upon the request of the government itself);
- (d) Training government officials on international norms, such as international migration law and international standards on the protection of unaccompanied migrant children (by 63 offices).

31. In total, in the first half of 2016, IOM trained some 22,000 practitioners. The Organization also worked with the private sector to help it comply with human rights standards, especially in relation to ethical recruitment in the supply chain context. Furthermore, IOM helped civil society organizations (CSOs) to work more effectively with governments in

37 countries. As a result of IOM's interventions, migration laws in several countries have been revised to include provisions for labour migration; for the protection of migrants and victims of trafficking; and for the upholding of human rights principles in border management. For instance, in Timor-Leste, laws against trafficking in persons are being amended by parliamentary legal drafters to reflect international norms, and internal policies of the Ministry of Social Solidarity are being updated with a co-developed IOM counter-trafficking curriculum. Also, IOM assists Member States under the European Neighbourhood Policy, at their request, in aligning their legislation with the European Union acquis.

32. **Principles for Humanitarian Action.** IOM's institutional humanitarian policy – embodied in the Principles for Humanitarian Action – was officially launched at a global event, held in Geneva on 14 March 2016, which brought together IOM's key humanitarian, transition and development partners and the Organization's senior management. First piloted in South Sudan, the Migration Crisis Operational Framework Strategic Planning methodology was finalized in June. This methodology serves as the main vehicle for the implementation of the Principles for Humanitarian Action, along with the related Guidance Note on how to mainstream protection across IOM crisis response, and the Progressive Resolution of Displacement Situations Framework.

33. **Guidance on protection mainstreaming.** The above-mentioned Guidance Note was issued in January 2016 as an instruction to IOM offices worldwide. It provides specific guidance and practical tools to colleagues working in crisis response on how to integrate protection into humanitarian interventions. Practitioners in pilot countries such as Ukraine and countries involved in the Syria response (Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan) have been trained on the protection mainstreaming approach.

34. **Preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).** IOM continued its efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers in humanitarian response operations. In the first half of 2016, IOM, in cooperation with other agencies, drafted an operational toolkit designed to promote field-level implementation of collective PSEA activities. These included the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) *Best Practice Guide: Inter-Agency Community-Based Complaint Mechanisms* and its accompanying global standard operating procedures. As part of this inter-agency collaboration in such an important area, I am beginning my sixth year as the IASC Champion on PSEA.

- ***Evidence-based approach***

35. **Research and publications.** So far in 2016, IOM has released 210 publications. At 31 October, the most downloaded publication was the *World Migration Report 2015*, with almost 48,000 downloads. The total number of downloads of IOM publications for the 2015–2016 period was over 1.9 million. While IOM did not produce a World Migration Report this year (with the next one due in 2017), a key publication came out in 2016 which resulted from collaboration between IOM and the Economist Intelligence Unit and produced the Migration Governance Index (MGI). The Index is intended to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by enabling them to measure progress towards planned and well-managed migration policies (target 10.7 of the SDGs); identify gaps and good practices; prioritize resources; and conduct activities in the right sequence. The MGI does not define a country's migration policies as being “good” or “bad”, nor does it propose a standard model for all. Rather, it is a tool to enable each country to review its performance. Fifteen countries were initially studied, and in 2017 IOM plans to scale up the MGI to cover at least 100 countries.

IOM also published the *Atlas of Environmental Migration*, intended to be an essential reference on this topic.

36. **Counter-trafficking Data Collaborative.** IOM has the world's largest database on victims of human trafficking, containing data on over 45,000 individual cases, with nearly 5,000 additional cases being added every year. Using this database, IOM has developed the first iteration of the Counter-trafficking Data Collaborative, which will be the world's first open-access, multi-stakeholder repository of anonymized human-trafficking case data. This initiative will rapidly increase the evidence base to respond to threats of human trafficking and labour exploitation and abuse. Access to the database is currently limited to close partners, but will be extended gradually as the system matures.

37. **Data Cluster Working Group.** This internal working group was created to map out the processes that will enable IOM to become the global reference for migration data. Demand for accurate and up-to-date migration data is enormous, but supply is patchy. The Data Cluster Working Group was created to enable IOM to meet that demand more effectively. Its members are stewards of data entities (such as the Displacement Tracking Matrix – DTM) and include departmental and division heads, and representatives from Field Offices and the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre in Berlin. On 2 and 3 December, IOM, with the support of the European Commission and Germany, held an international conference in Berlin on Improving Data on International Migration.

- **Partnerships**

38. **Forum activities.** One of the purposes and functions of IOM – as specified in its Constitution – is to provide a forum to States, as well as international and other organizations, for the exchange of views and experiences and the promotion of cooperation and coordination of efforts on international migration issues. This year, the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) – IOM's multi-stakeholder forum established in 2001 – devoted its annual workshops to an assessment of the implementation of the migration-related SDGs.

39. IOM also organized the Sixth Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Regional Consultative Processes on Migration, with the participation of other relevant regional bodies, such as the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions. The meeting focused on the migration aspects of the SDGs.

40. **World Humanitarian Summit.** The first World Humanitarian Summit was held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016, bringing together approximately 9,000 participants from 173 Member States of the United Nations, as well as the private sector, civil society and non-governmental organization representatives. During the consultations, IOM advocated for migrants caught in crises, internally displaced persons and front-line responders. IOM was pleased that there was a marked focus on the mobility and displacement aspects of crises.

41. **Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative.** At the request of and with the support of the co-chairing Governments, the United States of America and the Philippines, IOM served as the Secretariat of the State-led MICIC Initiative. The aim of the Initiative was to enhance protection and assistance for migrants in countries experiencing conflicts or natural disasters, in recognition of their additional vulnerabilities as non-nationals and of the barriers that many face in accessing protection and assistance. The MICIC Secretariat supported the convening of six regional and four stakeholder consultations, as well as numerous side events.



Most significantly, it also published the *MICIC Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disasters*.

42. **Regional and interregional partnerships.** Promoting increased dialogue among migration stakeholders at the bilateral, regional and global levels is one of IOM's migration policy priorities. In the first semester of 2016, IOM implemented close to 50 projects in this area. Of these, some were in support of inter-State consultative mechanisms (including the Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs)), interregional forums and global processes on migration; some were thematic projects (12 on migration policy, 9 on technical cooperation on migration, 5 on labour migration and 2 on counter-trafficking); and six were projects to support IOM-run secretariats of inter-State consultative mechanisms. In total, 55 IOM offices are contributing to one or more RCPs. I and the Deputy Director General were privileged to have taken part in meetings of virtually all of the RCPs in 2016.

43. **Partnerships with United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations.** IOM has enjoyed active partnerships with various intergovernmental organizations, bringing to the fore migration issues in bodies such as the Task Team on Law and Policy of the Global Protection Cluster; the Reference Group on Protracted Displacement; the Technical Steering Committee for informing responses to support durable solutions for internally displaced persons, an initiative led by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; the Technical Working Group on Durable Solutions of the Global Cluster for Early Recovery; the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group; the Task Team on Strengthening the Humanitarian/Development Nexus; and the Working Group of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons.

44. **Civil society.** IOM and CSOs cooperate on a broad range of migration issues at the global, regional, national and local levels. Between January and June 2016, 74 per cent of IOM offices were partnering with CSOs, including over 1,000 national and 182 international CSOs. In order to ensure continuous dialogue with civil society, IOM holds two consultations with CSOs every year, with one focusing on humanitarian issues and the other on migration governance.

45. **Private sector and diaspora engagement.** IOM advocates for ethical recruitment practices and the rights of migrants with the support of the private sector through the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS). IOM has also been working with the private sector in several countries to promote migrants' participation in the labour market to ensure sustainable integration and language proficiency. IOM estimates that its partnerships with the private sector benefited some 190,000 persons in 23 countries. The Organization also supported home and host governments to engage with the diaspora in 20 countries and mapped existing diaspora networks. Our task force on lowering the costs of remittances continues to undertake its work with our partners in the private sector and the Universal Postal Union.

### ***Objectives***

- ***Socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society***

46. **Labour migration.** IOM continued to raise awareness and provide training on ethical recruitment through direct engagement with the private and public sectors. Under the umbrella of IRIS, IOM continued to bring together government officials, multinational companies and employers, as well as experts, non-governmental organizations and trade unions.

47. **Migrant integration.** IOM has been helping governments to design and review policies on the integration of migrants at the national or municipal level, and to strengthen the intercultural skills of policymakers and practitioners. IOM support to governments also includes technical support towards the implementation of such policies, through national studies on challenges related to intercultural communication between migrants and government officials.

48. Public perceptions have a profound impact on the formulation of migration policy. For this reason, IOM has scaled up its “I am a migrant” campaign on social platforms to challenge anti-migrant hate speech, celebrate migrants’ contributions to society, and present a more accurate story of migrants and migration. This compelling campaign reaches well over 200,000 viewers on Twitter per month.

49. **Counter-trafficking.** During the first half of 2016, almost 13,000 practitioners and decision makers were trained on the identification and referral of victims of trafficking and forced labour; and on protection and care for victims in all of IOM’s nine regions. IOM is also working on the development of a handbook on protection and assistance for vulnerable migrants. This new handbook will draw on and expand the information, standards and procedures already laid out in the *IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking*, and should be available at the end of 2017.

50. **Migrant health.** One of the primary objectives of IOM’s health programming is to improve access to health services and deliver life-saving health and psychosocial assistance during humanitarian crises. IOM conducted nearly 350,000 health assessments across 82 countries in 2015, compared with 270,000 across 54 countries in 2012. This upward trend continues in 2016, with 320,400 health assessments having been provided by the third quarter of the year. Health personnel and partners have also been trained by IOM experts on the delivery of migrant-sensitive health services that respond to clinical, cultural, linguistic and administrative specificities in 34 countries. In total, around 2,000 health and non-health practitioners have improved their skills in migration health-related topics.

- ***Mobility dimensions of crises***

51. **Complex emergency situations.** In 2016, IOM continued to address simultaneous, complex and protracted emergencies requiring sustained, high-level coordinated responses from IOM. While migration across the Mediterranean has somewhat decreased as a consequence of the EU–Turkey agreement of March 2016, the continued arrival of migrants attests to the persistence of situations giving rise to their movement. Kenya announced its intention to close refugee camps in the country and to increase levels of repatriation to Somalia. Returns of Somali migrants from Kenya and Saudi Arabia continued. In Niger, IOM inaugurated a migrant information office in the town of Agadez, a hub with increasing numbers of West African migrants in transit on their way to Algeria, Libya and Europe. Conflicts flared in many parts of South Sudan and the Central African Republic, aggravating forced displacement. Insurgencies by Boko Haram continued to affect several communities in Nigeria. Natural disasters (flooding in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, drought in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the earthquake in Ecuador) are also likely to have long-lasting effects on displacement and livelihoods.

52. **Crisis preparedness.** As part of IOM’s efforts to strengthen crisis preparedness and response, 21 of its offices in emergency-prone regions now have stocks of non-food items. In addition, at least 15 offices have signed long-term agreements with non-food item suppliers to

access the highest quality of items for the lowest costs. During the first half of 2016, IOM's pre-positioned global non-food item stocks were drawn upon to respond swiftly to emergencies in Fiji and Yemen.

53. **Emergency response.** IOM continues to respond to emergencies in a timely and efficient manner. The Organization has been supporting humanitarian operations in more than 55 countries which include the four ongoing Level 3 emergencies: Iraq, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. There is also an emergency intervention in Ecuador following the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck the country in April. During the reporting period, IOM deployed rapid response officers from Headquarters on 93 occasions to start or scale up emergency operations. The deployments primarily supported camp coordination and camp management, shelter and DTM operations. In addition, IOM counted on its stand-by partnerships to deploy experts to the Central African Republic, Croatia, Ecuador, Fiji, Haiti, Malawi, Nigeria, Nepal and Papua New Guinea.

54. **Transition and recovery assistance.** IOM's community stabilization efforts continue to play a key role in preventing or mitigating displacement drivers in crisis or fragile contexts. Globally, IOM supported 110 community stabilization initiatives, representing USD 486 million in active programming, in the first half of 2016. IOM also continued to provide community-based reintegration support for ex-combatants, to support human security in target locations and to invest in the prevention of youth recruitment.

55. In addition, IOM supported efforts to counter violent extremism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Iraq, Kenya, Mali and Somalia through ongoing and newly launched initiatives. IOM programmes on countering violent extremism provided training for at-risk youth and created opportunities for their socioeconomic and civic participation to prevent radicalism, with the general aim of improving the human security of migrants and contributing to the overall stabilization of regions affected by this phenomenon.

56. **Election support.** IOM continues to roll out its elections support programme. With funding from the European Commission and a multi-partner trust fund, IOM provided electoral assistance and supported election observation missions in Guinea, Haiti and Uganda. IOM also designed a contingency strategy for out-of-country voting in the Syrian Arab Republic.

57. **Land, property and reparations.** IOM is leading an inter-agency project for the development of a guidance note on mainstreaming housing, land and property issues within humanitarian, transitional and development planning in crisis and post-crisis contexts. This is a joint initiative between the Housing, Land and Property Area of Responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster and the Rule of Law Thematic Group of the Solutions Alliance. IOM continues to support reparation efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Nepal, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

58. **Resettlement and movement management.** In addition to providing transport during emergencies, IOM supports some 30 States in carrying out resettlement, humanitarian admissions and relocation initiatives. Significant operations are under way in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Between January and June 2016, IOM moved around 91,000 persons. As part of the general effort to increase the resettlement of Syrians, IOM moved 25,000 refugees to Canada via charter flights. Other groups were accompanied to the United States, the United Kingdom and a number of other European countries. Medical assessments and cultural orientation were provided to all of these persons. It is expected that

resettlement processing and movement operations out of the Middle East will continue to expand.

- ***Safe, orderly and dignified migration***

59. **Safe and regular migration.** IOM's visa processing centres are run on behalf of governments to give migrants access to safe and regular migration channels. So far this year, IOM has facilitated the administrative processing of over 127,000 temporary and permanent visa applicants (Canada, United Kingdom), including enrolling biometrics for over 51,000 visa applicants.

60. These pathways may lead to humanitarian admission, family reunification or employment. So far this year, IOM has helped in the processing of over 20,000 humanitarian visas for Haitians to enter Brazil and is currently facilitating the case processing of over 500 Syrian families per week in support of family reunification in Germany. Since August, IOM has managed over 18,000 telephone calls to or from Syrian families seeking reunification with a recognized refugee in Germany and over 8,000 e-mails.

61. **Assisted voluntary return and reintegration.** IOM considers assisted voluntary return and reintegration to be a humane and dignified approach to providing support to migrants who are unwilling or unable to stay in a host or transit country and wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin. In the first nine months of 2016, IOM assisted more than 76,000 migrants to return home voluntarily, from 92 host countries to 150 countries of origin. This is a substantially higher figure than for the whole of 2015, when IOM assisted approximately 70,000 migrants. Prior to the recent large movements of migrants to Europe, in a normal year, IOM returned between 25,000 and 40,000 individuals. Since IOM began its programme of assisted voluntary return and reintegration, 35 years ago, the Organization has returned 1.4 million migrants. Beneficiaries include migrants in vulnerable situations, such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied migrant children, migrants with medical needs and unsuccessful asylum seekers. Returnees are provided with financial support and/or in-kind assistance before departure or upon arrival in their countries of origin to support their reintegration process.

62. **Border management.** By June 2016, 39 IOM offices had delivered training on immigration and border management to government officials, enhancing the skills of 5,445 people (35% of whom were women). The training covered the identification of falsified and forged travel documents; techniques to counter migrant smuggling, including interception and investigation; and the protection of migrants' rights.

### **III. THE STATE OF MIGRATION GOVERNANCE: A GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION**

63. As we prepare for the intergovernmental conference at which a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration will be adopted in 2018, we are not starting from zero. On the contrary, a migration "architecture", or structure, has been built up over the past 10 years. Although gradual, the developments that have taken place give every reason to believe that a meaningful global compact is achievable. I would like to briefly focus on the substantive part of IOM's contribution to these developments.

### **Migration governance structure**

64. With the Berne Initiative conference, held in 2005, as starting point, the international migration community went on to do the following:

- The establishment in 2007 of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which will hold its ninth summit later this month in Bangladesh, with Germany and Morocco set to carry this annual consultation forward in 2017.
- The simultaneous appointment in 2007 of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, who continues to hold this position to this day.
- The creation by IOM and UNHCR of the Geneva Migration Group, which later evolved into the Global Migration Group, which brings together United Nations agencies that have a stake in migration. The Group serves as an important coordination and coherence body.
- The holding of two High-level Dialogues on International Migration and Development, in 2006 and 2013, with the third one scheduled to take place no later than 2019.
- The holding of the Summit for Refugees and Migrants, on 19 September 2016, at which the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was adopted.

### **Recent global agreements with migration implications**

65. In addition to the above developments, the year 2015 witnessed a remarkable series of global events leading to agreements, all of which have significant implications for migration and migrants; for example:

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (March 2015)
- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (July 2015)
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (September 2015)
- The Paris Agreement on climate change (December 2015)

66. The question before us now is whether these constructs will bring us to a decisive moment in human mobility, or whether we find ourselves still unable as an international community to come to an agreement on the governance of migration.

67. As mentioned, the Summit for Refugees and Migrants took place on 19 September 2016. This was the first time the United Nations held a high-level plenary meeting to address refugee and migration issues. To assist preparations for the Summit, IOM seconded two staff members to the team of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General; the first assisted with the preparation of the migration-related sections of the report of the Secretary-General, entitled *In safety and in dignity: addressing large movements of refugees and migrants*; and the second supported Member State preparations in New York.

68. IOM's technical and policy expertise was essential to framing the Secretary-General's report and ensuring balance between the refugee- and migration-related elements and aspirations of the Summit. IOM's input also helped ensure a robust common section of the

Secretary-General's report and contributed to the resulting New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which focuses on the common needs and rights of migrants and refugees in large movements. The Declaration addresses such issues as immediate reception needs, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, and xenophobia and discrimination directly affecting migrants and refugees.

69. IOM's contribution to the process also helped ensure that the historically positive contributions of migrants and migration to inclusive growth and sustainable development were taken into account and recognized. The New York Declaration framed migration not as a problem to be solved, but as a phenomenon to be managed through planned and well-managed policies, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These efforts, however, are only the beginning. Much needs to be done to ensure that the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration reflects the realities on the ground and guarantees that migration will be for the benefit of all.

### **Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration**

70. IOM fully respects the State-led nature of the discussions and negotiations on both the modalities and substance of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The Organization will work closely and constructively with all stakeholders.

71. One area of particular importance is that of mixed flows, which are at the centre of most large-scale movements. For IOM, understanding this reality is fundamental to the effective elaboration of both global compacts, on refugees and on migration; it is also key to safe, dignified and sustainable approaches on the ground. Human rights are portable: all people on the move, regardless of their status, deserve protection. IOM experience shows, however, that this alone is not enough. Measures in the area of resettlement, integration, reintegration and stabilization are essential, and, regardless of the status of the returnee, the challenges faced by individuals and communities are the same. IOM is working closely with UNHCR on the global compact on refugees in order to promote synergies and coherence for addressing mixed flows, and as part of our long-standing partnerships on refugee repatriation, resettlement and reintegration. IOM is also discussing with UNHCR where we can partner in various pilot countries, where the strength of each agency can be used to support the needs of migrants and refugees and the Member States concerned.

72. With regard to the global compact on migration process, I would like to put forward the following ideas, which are aimed at: (a) supporting the development of a compact that will be meaningful in the everyday lives of migrants; and (b) assisting and supporting governments in their efforts to govern migration with an actionable agenda.

73. First, as a general point, IOM believes it is critical that the process begin with a robust, open and inclusive consultative phase – that is, one that brings in a broad range of diverse stakeholders with an interest in migration – if the process is to be substantive, credible and its eventual outcome sustainable. IOM would suggest, for instance, that special consideration be given to convening a robust series of regional and thematic consultations – not negotiations – to engage broad groups of interested parties – much like the inclusive, bottom-up process that led to the SDGs.

74. Second, it would be important to ensure that existing mechanisms are used effectively, and have a clear and explicit link with the intergovernmental process. In that respect, the IDM could be designated as an official part of the preparatory process. IOM is prepared to dedicate

the IDM in 2017, and 2018 if needed, to identifying elements for the global compact on migration and canvassing the views of all.

75. Third, the process should also put IOM to work as the newest member of the United Nations system and as the global lead agency on migration. IOM is assembling teams in Geneva and New York dedicated to the global compact on migration, and is also providing staff to work with the co-facilitators – Mexico and Switzerland – the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations system.

76. Lastly, it is essential that the global compact be comprehensive, covering all aspects of migration policy.

## **CONCLUSION**

77. The year 2016 has been a historic one for IOM. Not only does it mark the Organization's 65th anniversary, it is also the year in which IOM became a related organization within the United Nations system, making it the United Nations migration agency. Moreover, in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, IOM was assigned the role of jointly servicing, with the Secretariat of the United Nations, the negotiations leading to the global compact on migration, which will be the centrepiece of the intergovernmental conference to be held in 2018. This will be one of our principal focuses for the coming 18 months, while we also continue with our normal range of activities. We will keep you regularly informed and be fully transparent during the entire process.

78. At the same time, as this year comes to an end, there is reason for concern for migrants and migration in general. Recent political events in various parts of the world reflect what appears to be a developing trend towards populism, ultranationalistic politics and amnesia concerning migrants' traditional role as agents of development. All of this creates an atmosphere that will make migration governance and the negotiation of a global compact on migration exceedingly challenging.

79. Nevertheless, our 65 years of experience have taught us that migration is an integral and enduring part of the human landscape. Migrants will continue to alter and shape this landscape as they have done in the past, sometimes in ways that are unexpected and occasionally even unsettling; but, migrants' influence will be overwhelmingly constructive.

80. I and the Administration remain positive about the future, given the strength of your support and emboldened by the progress made over the past decade through our combined efforts to create the best possible conditions for the exercise of human mobility; to protect migrants' rights; to reduce the human, social and financial costs of migration; and to optimize migrants' potential for development.