



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

STATEMENT

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**THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
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**Agenda Item 3: Follow-up Actions to the Recommendations of the
International Conference on Population and Development**

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IOM STATEMENT TO THE 39TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, IOM has been regularly inter-acting with the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) on the progress and achievements towards the objectives of its Programme of Action, in particular "International Migration" as contained in Chapter X. As we had the opportunity to remark in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the ICPD, "the targets set forth a decade ago in Cairo still remain the goals of today". This session of the CPD, however, marks a different and unique opportunity not only to build upon that farsighted programme, but also to present innovative approaches to fasten the attainment of those objectives, help advance new areas of consensus and update our collective resolve to address current migration challenges.

At its 37th session, the CPD decided that the special theme for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission in 2006 would be "international migration and development" as a contribution of the Commission to the High Level Dialogue (HLD) of the General Assembly. IOM therefore appreciates the opportunity to make a brief intervention on this topic, while leaving to a paper -- which is available at the back of the room and on the IOM website -- a more articulated contribution. The paper under reference provides an overview of IOM's views on migration and development derived from its direct experience working with governments in the management of migration. Its aim is to contribute to the preparation for the HLD and is essentially organized around the four HLD roundtable themes laid out in General Assembly resolution 60/227. It provides in each section a general overview complemented by examples drawn directly from IOM's programmatic and operational experience.

Mr. Chairman,

IOM fully appreciates the significance of the HLD as the first ever high-level UN event entirely devoted to migration and development. The HLD can offer a unique occasion not only to share best practices on migration management but also to foster cooperation on key migration issues, in all those areas where concrete opportunities exist to produce a shared vision and a shared agenda for future action.

Through General Assembly resolution 60/227, IOM has been invited to contribute to HLD preparations, together with relevant UN organizations, funds and programs, and indeed Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to report that preparations for the HLD are proceeding in earnest at the national, regional and international levels, as we had also yesterday the opportunity to learn from the reports of the Social and Economic Commissions. To this end, IOM is contributing its migration expertise in order to set up

a framework for a more coherent discourse on migration policies and a better balanced understanding of migration and migrants.

These initiatives are taking place at various levels. At the national level, thanks to an extensive presence in 118 countries worldwide, IOM's objective is, in response to the requests of national authorities, to raise awareness of the HLD among all relevant stakeholders and to help countries in defining a coherent position on its themes. Activities include the organization of national events to facilitate discussion on the topics of the HLD, often with the participation of a broad range of interested parties, including state and non-state actors. At the regional and global levels, IOM has already planned or co-sponsored several events focused on the overall themes and specific aspects of the HLD, including labour migration, the development impact of remittances, diasporas, indigenous peoples and migration, gender and the feminization of migration to mention just a few thematic areas under review. For example, on 9 and 10 February in Cotonou, working with the authorities of Benin and the office of the UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Countries and Small Island Developing States, IOM co-organized a Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries on Migrants' Remittances. More recently, on 15 and 16 March in Brussels, in a major partnership initiative with the Government of Belgium, and in cooperation with the EC and the WB, IOM convened an important international Conference on Migration and Development which brought together government representatives from migrant-receiving countries in Europe and countries of origin in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as international organizations, migrants associations and other civil society organizations involved with migration and development. The Conference and its conclusions will offer a useful contribution to the HLD. Similarly, in an effort to explore a less researched area, an expert workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration will be co-hosted by IOM and the United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues on 6 and 7 April in Geneva with the objective to offer yet another input to the HLD.

Over 40 events such as the above have been planned together with UN and other partners in anticipation of the HLD and with a view to contributing to the success of the HLD (see for detail <http://www.un.int/iom/IOM-HLD.html>). This is a tall agenda and yet indicates how topical the subject has become in recent years and indeed the expectations that international migration can and must become integrated into development policy and into the development cooperation strategies to attain the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, IOM looks forward to continuing and further increasing our cooperation with the CPD and the other relevant bodies of the United Nations in the preparation for the HLD and its eventual follow up. IOM is firmly convinced that, working all together, we can achieve a successful outcome for the HLD, advancing a more coherent approach to migration policies and a new, positive perception of migration and migrants.

Thank you.