

**MICEM/9/2002**

**CONCLUDING STATEMENT AT  
THE IOM COUNCIL GENERAL DEBATE**

**4 December 2002**

**The Director General**

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

We have been privileged over the last two days to take part in an intense, serious and well-informed debate by governments and non-governmental actors on the future of migration policy and the role of our Organization. I wish to thank the delegations for their kind words and for the richness of their contributions.

I have heard from you expressions of strong support for IOM as a unique international organization, characterized by a flexible, responsive and pragmatic approach. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank you for your vote of confidence. We must make certain that IOM does not lose its special character.

At the same times, we have heard that the field of migration policy and programmes is growing and changing rapidly. We have a duty to meet existing challenges even more effectively, while redefining ourselves to deal with the new challenges that are coming upon us fast.

I am encouraged to hear from so many delegations that IOM is the organization best equipped to help the world meet the growing, changing challenges of migration management.

You have endorsed enthusiastically the continuation of the **migration policy dialogue**. We have agreed to create an informal mechanism to work on migration policy questions between Council sessions. We shall take the next steps in this process early next year.

Simultaneously, we shall further develop our **strategic alliances** with other agencies dealing with development, globalization, control and humanitarian concerns.

Finally, we shall establish a **working group on institutional arrangements** under the chairmanship of Ambassador Amina Mohammed. All Member States will have an opportunity through this working group to contribute to the debate on relations with the United Nations system that began at this Council. The working group will explore the comparative advantages of different options, with their costs and benefits, and report to the Council. For that purpose, we shall prepare an in-depth, comprehensive study, drawing on independent experts, as you have suggested.

Our sincere thanks to all members and observers for a most useful and positive Council session and for your continuing support and encouragement of IOM.