



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

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

Ms. Ndioro Ndiaye

At the Ninety-seventh (Special) Session of the Council

29-30 June 2009

Geneva

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is an honour and pleasure to address you today at this Ninety-seventh (Special) Council Session of IOM which as you all know, will be my last. Having shared with you at some length my perspectives on the Organization at the Ninety-sixth Session of the Council in December 2008, my remarks today will be brief.

2. First and foremost, I look forward to congratulating my successor on his/her win and to working with him/her in the coming months to ensure a smooth hand-over and transition. The position of Deputy Director General is immensely critical to the continued smooth running of the Organization, and I have every confidence that of the eminent candidates you will shortly be voting for, the Organization will get a very able Deputy Director General.

3. I wish to further state that with Ambassador Swing at the helm of the Organization during these increasingly uncertain economic times, I leave IOM assured that the Organization will not only continue to be responsive to the needs of its Member States, but that it will also attain greater heights of effectiveness as the leading international organization dealing with migration issues. This confidence comes from my experience, albeit brief, of working with Ambassador Swing during these past several months. The Director General's vision of an organization that listens to its Member States and cultivates partnerships to ensure more efficient delivery of services, combined with his firm commitment to staff professionalism through a sound approach to human resources management, is indeed most encouraging.

4. I would also like to share with you my admiration for the IOM staff who have for so long, with less and less in the way of resources, ensured continued service delivery to Member States and migrants. Even while recognizing this exemplary performance, borne of a remarkable sense of commitment to the Organization's mandate and its beneficiaries, I am hopeful that their burden might be eased in the coming years as the Organization begins to progress towards a budget regime that is able to more fully take into account growth and the changing contexts in which we are having to work. I must say that the dedication of staff and their motivation and steadfast commitment to the Organization's mandate accounts in large measure for IOM's continued good standing. I feel certain you will agree that the IOM staff is its most important asset. I therefore urge that its well-being be safeguarded at all costs.

5. Finally, please allow me to extend my gratitude to all the delegations present here, many of whom I have had the pleasure to work with over the years. Your support for the work of the Organization and to me in the execution of my functions contributed to lightening the load and to making this the truly remarkable journey that it has been.

Thank you all very much.