REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON THE STATE OF MIGRATION:

CURRENT REALITIES, FUTURE FRONTIERS

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Hundredth Session

5–7 December 2011

Geneva

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I.   Setting the scene for the 60th anniversary

1.   Six decades of leadership and service, in any field, should surely be a moment for reflection. At the opening session of the 100th Council, we did just that, as we reviewed the "state of the Organization".

2.   The high-level segment of our Council – at which we are honoured to have so many ministerial delegations – is a time for consideration of the "state of migration". Together, we will exchange views on migration trends and their implications for the Organization.

3.   It is a singular honour and pleasure to welcome the President of the United Nations General Assembly, His Excellency Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser. His presence is itself a clear sign of the commitment of the United Nations to this very important "megatrend" that is migration.

4.   We would like to examine current migration trends and challenges and the implications of these for Member and Observer States, and for migrants themselves, and to see if we can fashion a scenario that offers us prospects whereby migration benefits us all.

Importance of IOM's 60th anniversary and high-level segment

5.   We are gathered here to commemorate 60 years of IOM leadership and service in support of migrants and migration. It is fitting that we do so at a time when, numerically, more people are on the move than at any other time in recorded history: more than 1 billion people – a seventh of humanity – are international or internal migrants living outside their country or region of origin. Indeed, it is the rare country today that is not a country of origin, transit or destination of migrants, and most are increasingly simultaneously all three.

6.   It is a cruel irony, however, that, at the same time, many countries – including some of those that were built on immigration and immigrants – now feel under pressure to close their doors to migrants.

7.   Once simply a sensitive national political issue, migration has become increasingly a geopolitical security issue that tends, at times, to scapegoat migrants in general and criminalize those with irregular status. All of us in positions of leadership will be called upon increasingly to stand up and say what we all know, namely that migration is a natural, necessary and potentially enriching phenomenon, and that migrants are human beings deserving of respect, humane treatment and our thanks for the skills, innovation and social and cultural enrichment they bring.

8.   Some would argue that this anti-migrant sentiment is perhaps understandable at a time: (a) of heightened anxiety in the face of a global economy in decline; (b) when insecurity and the ever-present threat of terrorism seem on the rise; (c) when some feel their national and personal identities are threatened; and (d) when the "nation State" is evolving as quickly as the technology that is making the world ever more interconnected.

9.   Yet, hopeful signs are gradually appearing on the migration horizon. Regardless of where governments stand on migration issues, or see their interests advanced in the global migration debate, there is growing consensus that migration is an enduring trend that will be with us throughout this century. And, by all accounts, in IOM's six decades of experience, the human mobility phenomenon has been a driver of human development leading to the betterment of States and their societies.

10.   Governments also understand that countries cannot afford to be indifferent to migration or migrants. Migration is far too complex for unilateral, isolationist policies. Like other complicated and multilateral issues, national migration interests will be served best through dialogue and partnerships among countries of origin, transit and destination if the considerable obstacles are to be overcome and opportunities seized in this world that is ever on the move.

11.   One objective of the high-level segment of IOM's 100th Session of the Council is to advance our collective thinking on how we – as an international community and as proprietors of the leading international organization for migration which has a global footprint – can best address the fundamental challenge of finding a humane, orderly, equitable arrangement that acknowledges national sovereignty on population movements, on the one hand, and, at the same time, respects people's need to migrate to live in safety and dignity, or their desire to improve their lives and follow their dreams.

12.   The future of migration – the so-called "third wave" of globalization after the free movements of goods and capital – is fuelled by a full array of dynamic forces.

II.   Global migration trends and challenges

Demographics and labour market requirements

13.   The first major driver of migration is the discrepancy between the demographics and labour requirements of ageing, declining industrialized States and the exponentially expanding, unemployed youth populations in the rest of the world.

14.   The population of the world's industrialized countries – in most of which more people are dying than being born – is expected to decline 25 per cent further by 2050. This will significantly increase the demand for skilled migrant workers for knowledge and innovation, but far greater numbers of less skilled workers will be required to do the jobs for which there are simply not enough people. Moreover, even middle-income countries are either already experiencing, or will experience, declining population rates in the coming years.

15.   Likewise, on the supply side, most of the world's expected population growth will be concentrated in today's poorest and youngest countries, which equates with growing numbers of young people entering the labour force seeking out the too few employment opportunities at home. Would-be workers will be increasingly attracted to the labour markets of the ageing and population-deficient developed countries.

16.   The fundamental trend, therefore, is that of large-scale population movements for much of this century. The demand for migrants can thus be expected to escalate over the next four decades – nearly 200 million more than today's estimated 214 million international

migrants, some studies conclude – and most migrants, as in the past, will migrate legally and as a matter of choice.

Distance-shrinking technology and the digital revolution

17.   The second driver of migration is the technology and social media revolution, which is connecting people like never before, strengthening networks of migrant communities and making information on movement opportunities readily available as we have seen played out in every major migration corridor around the globe. The Internet is, and will remain, a driving force in the desire of youth to migrate to improve their lives. Indeed, the challenge for a number of countries is to try to find ways to keep their talented youth from emigrating.

18.   Compared with the 390 million persons who had access to the Internet in 2000, today more than 2 billion people are connected. Instant access to information through social networking tools such as Facebook and Twitter is changing the way in which social and political movements unfold, with recent examples being the Occupy Wall Street movement and the protests in Tahrir square. The ways in which interpersonal links are maintained and the world is understood are changing fundamentally and affecting all aspects of humanity, including mobility.

The changing nature and composition of the nation State

19.   With international migration likely to continue to expand in scale and complexity in coming decades, societies of the future may be expected to exhibit growing social, economic and cultural diversity.

20.   In this increasingly interconnected, globalized world – in which people, more and more, feel an affinity to more than one place or country and may have multiple nationalities, with growing transnationalism, and in which global demographics and labour market demands push and pull all of us in different directions – traditional notions of the nation State are evolving inexorably, perhaps assuming new characteristics and dynamism.

21.   The interplay between the forces of globalization is challenging nation States. Indeed, the very composition of many, if not most, nation States is in flux, with more and more States becoming multicultural, multilingual, multi-religious and multi-ethnic societies. In turn, migration-induced diversity is generating a growing degree of anxiety at the local, national, regional and global levels.

22.   Resistance to change and fear of the unknown are common human attributes. In some cases, the emerging multicultural composition of societies is tending to drive communities apart and to put governments under pressure. Some countries respond with policies of denial – pursuing actions that only stimulate unsafe irregular migration, incite menacing public behaviour and propagate harmful migrant myths and stereotypes. How to manage social diversity and perceived threats to national and even personal identity is a major challenge involving issues that are often not well understood by the public at large.

23.   The successful welcoming and integration of migrants – whether temporarily or permanently – into host societies and, more broadly, the manner in which receiving communities embrace migration and diversity, will constitute one of the major policy

questions for IOM Member States in the years ahead. As this year's *World Migration Report* observes, perceptions and attitudes will inevitably shape public opinion and, in so doing, influence policies.

Coalescing forces: Population growth, urbanization and global crises

24.   A nexus of continued population growth, inexorable urbanization and multiple, often simultaneous, global crises represents a further driver of large-scale migration.

25.   Studies show that the world's population is growing by some 200,000 persons per day, with Africa's population alone expected to double to 1.8 billion by 2050. This exponential growth threatens to outstrip agricultural production and distribution, thereby exacerbating existing socio-economic disparities – the twentieth century having already seen greater population growth than any previous century.

26.   It is estimated that in the Gulf and Middle East States alone, as many as 85 million new jobs will be needed to employ unemployed youth. As mentioned earlier, much of this population growth will be among youth, who, according to Professor Jack Goldstone, are becoming "concentrated in those countries least prepared to educate and employ them." A related issue is that of how to assist countries that have recently reached "middle income" status but continue to experience great disparities in wealth and opportunities among their own nationals.

27.   Meanwhile, one recent study forecasts that as many as 500 million farmers will move to cities over the next half century. In 2010, for the first time in recorded history, more people were living in cities than in rural areas. Professor Ian Goldin considers Africa to be of particular concern in this regard, in that urbanization is taking place in the absence of industrialization.

28.   Add to these trends the increasingly frequent and severe multiple global crises – relating to food, water, health care, resources, economic/financial issues, climate change, security, persistent human rights abuses and terrorism – together with the changing nature of warfare in which internal, intra-state conflicts have largely replaced inter-State wars, and individuals and groups today increasingly pose greater security threats than military establishments. According to the World Bank, this year 1.5 billion people are living in areas affected by violence.

29.   The most damaging effect of all these elements, individually and collectively, may well be that of mass population displacement. Those displaced are likely to include increasing numbers of neglected at-risk populations, that is, those not covered by any specific, dedicated international legal frameworks: climate and environmentally induced migrants; internally displaced persons; stranded migrants, including persons rescued at sea; and unaccompanied minors.

Multiple complex humanitarian disasters

30.   As was the case in the post-Cold War period of intra-state wars, human-induced humanitarian disasters seem likely to continue to have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations, along with slow- and rapid-onset natural disasters. Environmental and land degradation and climate change will continue to have repercussions on lives, livelihoods

and development as we know them, and therefore will have profound implications for human mobility.

31.   Perhaps the most serious consequence of climatic and environmental deterioration will be in terms of population displacement (mentioned for the first time only in 2010 in United Nations Climate Change Conference documents). According to the Brookings Institution, last year more than 300 million people were affected by 350 natural disasters – the vast majority in poor, vulnerable communities.

32.   There is every indication that climate change and environmental degradation – whether slow-onset events such as de-forestation, soil and river erosion, or extreme environmental events such as tsunamis, earthquakes and other cataclysmic incidents – are growing in frequency and intensity and are expected to displace millions of people over the next forty years.

33.   We can conclude from these global phenomena that in the twenty-first century: (a) migration is assuming greater policy and strategic significance for States; (b) large-scale population movements are both inevitable and unavoidable in the current circumstances described above and desirable and necessary, if intelligently and humanely managed; and (c) migration will remain a "megatrend" of the twenty-first century.

III.   Setting the course for the 65th anniversary

34.   Much of the terrain to be covered will, no doubt, be difficult going. Yet, even if only a portion of these realities is accepted, we will all have a demanding course ahead over the next five years in the run-up to when our Organization will be 65 years old. As you are the owners of IOM, we as the Administration have a responsibility to offer you the best counsel we can concerning the way forward.

35.   Our thinking runs along the following lines, which we have organized under four rubrics: (a) communication; (b) strategic partnerships; (c) capacity-building for migration management; and (d) policy and scenario development.

Communicating effectively on migration

36.   First, not only must governments and organizations recognize and accept some of the realities addressed earlier, and in our 60th anniversary *World Migration Report: Communicating Effectively about Migration*, but there is also an incumbent responsibility to develop a communications strategy with the objective of informing and educating the general public. While informing the citizenry of government policy to limit irregular migration and promote regular labour migration, as needed, it would also be important to address the historically and contemporarily important and positive contribution of migration and migrants. This also involves addressing the myths and destructive stereotypes concerning migrants.

Building strategic partnerships

37.   Second, we need to augment our exchange with the public by developing strong regional and global partnerships on migration. This can be done through any, or several, of the sixteen regional consultative processes (RCPs), which IOM supports in almost every

region of the world; and, globally, through active participation in forums such as the State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). Another example is IOM's cooperation with the Inter Press Service News Agency. In October this year, we gathered in Helsinki, Finland, to convene a seminar, which brought together migration and media experts to discuss "Migration and communication: Rebalancing information flows and dialogue".

38.   Our International Dialogue on Migration is also a useful forum at which to expand our conceptual thinking and develop and demonstrate partnerships between and among States, and with partner intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Indeed, one of the principal purposes and functions of IOM, set out by you – the Member States – in the IOM Constitution, is to provide a forum for governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to discuss contemporary migration issues with a view to finding practical solutions on the basis of sound evidence. This mandate underpins all of IOM's forum-related activities, and indeed can be utilized by the membership to foster better understanding and cooperation on migration.

39.   In furtherance of your request for the Organization to cooperate as much as possible with the United Nations system, we participate actively in the Global Migration Group – by serving as co-chair of the two existing working groups and offering to chair the group together with the United Nations Regional Commissions in 2013 – in the United Nations Country Teams; in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on humanitarian response; and in various other inter-agency information and coordination mechanisms around the world.

Capacity-building for migration management

40.   Third, there is a need for continued capacity-building for migration management. IOM is committed to providing assistance to governments to manage social diversity and publicly perceived cultural threats to personal and national identity, lifestyle and traditional ways of life and consumption patterns. As one scholar states: "…one thing is clear: there is no return to the neat idea of closed-off nation-states with homogenous national communities." We all need to work together to consolidate security with freedom of movement, and national sovereignty with individual human rights.

41.   The complex migration flows of this century cannot be understood through a single lens, as they are, without exception, multifaceted in both causes and consequences. To help Member States deal with these challenges and ensure humane and rights-oriented results, IOM's approach to migration management is a holistic one that recognizes the sovereignty of countries and their right to security, while ensuring protection, and is cognizant of the social, economic and political realties within which migration occurs.

Policy and scenario development

42.   Fourth, we all need to remain on the policy cutting edge as migration increases inexorably in complexity and scope in view of contemporary forces driving population movements. In this regard, it would be important to develop a scenario in order to address migration challenges and take advantage of migration's opportunities.

43.   Although migration management remains within the domain of national sovereignty, States will find it increasingly in their interests to address the myriad of migration challenges, many of which are highlighted here, to augment their national instruments and policies. There

are many different ways in which to interpret the term "governance of international migration". Migration governance is a complex multilayered, multi-actor and multidimensional undertaking, and there is currently no single, unified system to manage migration.

44.   In our view, migration governance is an ongoing process of enhancing collaboration and partnerships, both in informal and formal ways, to accommodate diverse interests and to protect migrants so as to maximize the development benefits of migration.

A "high road" scenario for migration governance

45.   At IOM, we believe that all, or a combination of some, of the following elements would constitute a "high road" scenario, irrespective of whether the country in question is one of origin, transit or destination, or all three combined:

(a)   Recognition of the fundamental reality that large-scale migration is:

      (i)   <u>inevitable</u> given the irrepressible force of demography;

      (ii)   <u>necessary</u> due to labour market demands and migration's importance for the future of both ageing societies and youthful societies without jobs;

      (iii)   <u>desirable</u> given that the positive contributions of migrants, such as remittances and innovation, are a major force in economic and human development.

(b)   <u>A "whole-of-government" approach</u>, which as its basis would comprise an inter-ministerial coordinating body, bringing together immigration, labour, justice, social affairs, development and others, for example, reporting to the head of government; and the possible creation of a special ministry for citizens living abroad, which already exist in several dozen countries.

(c)   <u>A "whole-of-society" approach</u>, which involves the entire spectrum of civil society, including the private sector, labour unions, advocacy groups, service providers, migrants' associations, academia and the media – all of whom have a stake in ensuring migration remains a force for good.

(d)   <u>A cooperation framework</u>, including participation in RCPs, GFMD, the Regional Commissions, among others.

(e)   <u>Public education and public information</u>, which would focus on current realities, the positive "human capital" contributions made by migrants, efforts to promote regular migration and respect for migrants' rights, and government measures to control irregular migration. Likewise, governments also need to inform the public of the fundamental rights and obligations of migrants.

(f)   <u>National legislation that facilitates regular migration and discourages irregular migration</u>: For example, dual nationality arrangements; multiple entry visas for regular migrants; greater access to residence and work permits; circular migration and seasonal worker schemes; conscious selection of means for managing the dynamic interaction between migrants and society; provisions for migrant access to health and other public services; an active diaspora programme coupled with political rights for citizens living abroad (e.g. out-of-country voting); expatriate parliamentary

representation; and provision of a legal avenue for selected irregular migrants to regularize their local status; priority to assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes over deportation when migrants must leave; priority to family reunification; and portable social welfare benefits.

IV.   Conclusion

46.   In conclusion, the road ahead is daunting, yet also filled with opportunities. Migration is a force with which to reckon in our times, and if we manage migration well, and together, its benefits will certainly exceed those we might have gained in isolation.

47.   There are, of course, no magic formulas in regard to migration. Were one to exist, it would likely contain at least some of the following elements: on the one hand, a policy that acknowledges, accepts and respects a State's national sovereignty over who enters and remains on its territory, as well as a State's expectation that those who enter will respect and uphold local and national laws and customs; and, on the other hand, a policy that recognizes and respects the individual's age-old desire to migrate, either out of choice or necessity, and ensures that, once in the country of destination, his or her rights will be upheld.