

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mrs. Ndioro NDIAYE

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Mr. Chairman
Ladies and gentlemen

1. This is the second year in which I have the privilege of addressing you, the Members of the IOM Council, in my capacity of Deputy Director General.
2. **First of all**, I should like to thank you for the sustained interest you have shown in our work throughout the past year. By the same token, I wish to pay tribute to your constant concern for the efficient functioning of IOM.
3. On this occasion, I should also like to thank the Director General, Mr. Brunson McKinley, for his open-mindedness and team spirit that he encourages, both at Headquarters and in our Offices and Missions in your countries. I wish to assure him once again of my faith in this kind of cooperation.
4. **Secondly**, I should like to reiterate the commitments that I made before you a year ago, on 30 November 1999.
5. But I shall begin by recalling that it was in full agreement with the Director General that we decided that I deal in particular with certain concerns “which we have taken to heart and which are of strategic importance for the Organization”.
6. **First concern**: gender issues both within and outside the Organization. Two concerns in this area are: (1) the formulation of specific projects for migrant women, in order to take account of the growing feminization of migratory flows; and (2) a more equitable balance in the Organization’s recruitment policy. Substantial progress has been achieved in both of these areas.
7. Eight projects have thus been proposed:
 - support for an information campaign on trafficking of persons in the Philippines,
 - preparation of a handbook for researchers and persons working on migrant trafficking issues,
 - production of a video film to promote the return of Afghan women doctor refugees in Pakistan,

- provision of funds to start a “health and migration” project to benefit migrant women in Europe,
- a contribution to the distribution costs of a film on abandoned migrant children,
- an information campaign aimed at employers of female domestic labour in Costa Rica,
- a training programme for adolescents in a refugee camp in Kenya awaiting resettlement,
- updating and reissue of the IOM publication on “Trafficking of women from the Dominican Republic for sexual exploitation”.

8. With regard to staff gender balance, I am able to announce that by the end of September 2000 the percentage of women had increased to 31 per cent.

9. There is still a need, however, to increasingly convince the persons who develop projects within IOM to take this factor into account. In addition, I must admit that there is also a need to accelerate the balance between men and women within the Organization. The specific “briefings” to put pressure on senior staff should be maintained.

10. I also want you to know that I participate as often as possible in international meetings concerned with women, especially when it seems appropriate to introduce migration issues during the discussion.

11. In conclusion, I would remind you that a year ago I asked you to help me by allocating resources for gender issues. Still in the interest of equity, I hereby reiterate this appeal.

12. Second concern: relations with the United Nations and other organizations. These are essential both at the political and diplomatic level and that of thematic programmes. Our relations with UNHCR, UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, etc., have been strengthened and the same applies to the Bretton Woods institutions. In the area of finance, too, we have sought new partnerships and have begun to establish relations with the African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank. New conventions have been signed or are on the point of being signed. At the same time, our old cooperation agreements are now subject to regular evaluations.

13. Third concern: the integration of French-speaking countries in the Organization and use of French as a working language.

14. Initiatives for the integration of francophone countries have mainly related to African countries. But also to certain French-speaking countries of Asia and the Americas. Visits have already been paid to certain countries in order to meet the authorities to examine the migration problems with which they are faced and to consider, in addition to the desired adhesion, the areas in which a real partnership might be established.

15. I have noted an appreciable increase in the use of French as a working language of IOM; at the translation level, we lack translators from French into English.

16. The fourth concern is that of the African continent. I have already stated that Africa is a key region for IOM and that I would be working actively to strengthen our presence there. That is what I have been doing during my visits to African countries and at meetings arranged by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), such as the Algiers and Tripoli/Sirte summits in 1999. The objectives were multiple, but it may be said that on every occasion the question was one of strengthening a partnership – both internal (with our regional and national offices in African countries) and external, with governments and subregional and international institutions (particularly with the OAU and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and also with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (UEMOA), as well as the regional offices of UNICEF or FAO, with which we are developing or intend to develop specific programmes). The topics to be dealt with range from post-conflict situations with demobilization and reintegration of soldiers in civilian society, to the training of officials concerned with management of migration flows, passing through the continued implementation of our programme for the Return of Qualified African Nationals (RQAN) or through the development of new projects concerning the topic of “migration and AIDS”.

17. Follow-up activities with Members is essential if we are to guarantee the continuation of our relationships. For me, the question is one of a timely response to countries requesting IOM aid, a response in the form of specific and concrete programmes which will help them to foresee crises and to anticipate the undesirable effects of migratory movements. And indeed, this is what we have done by promoting such subregional exercises as the Dakar Conference in October 2000, which culminated in the proclamation, at ministerial level, of the so-called “Dakar Declaration”, whereby all the countries of the West African region committed themselves to a subregional dialogue and to certain other specific measures, such as the establishment of migration observatories or the initiation of training programmes jointly and in partnership with the subregional institutions to which they belong. It may be noted at this point that our efforts to improve our relations with our partners have led some of our Members to pay their contributions for 2000 in whole or in part.

18. Furthermore, we thought that a special effort should be made to mobilize the diaspora, wherever it may be, and particularly in the developed countries where qualified persons acquire or develop new skills which should benefit the African countries of origin in one way or another. In connection with this topic, which may be called “migration and development”, we have launched a programme jointly with the (Canadian) International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the ECA to mobilize this diaspora and to establish new partnerships, particularly with representative associations of the diaspora and with non-governmental organizations. A first meeting was held in Addis Ababa in February 2000, followed by another in Dakar in October 2000, and we are on the point of launching a joint large-scale programme on the subject, designed eventually to accompany the RQAN programme to which I shall return later.

19. As I said last year, these specific topics are “neither immutable nor definitive” and, in close symbiosis with the Director General, I have had to expand my areas of concern.

20. At the internal level, I have followed closely the preparation of budget proposals. This exercise is made difficult by the fact that we have to take two somewhat paradoxical factors into account. On the

one hand, the Organization cannot carry out its mandate unless it is able to respond to the migration management needs of the international community as a whole and of its Member States in particular, which calls for a solid organization of IOM services and a constantly growing capitalization of past experience. This organization passes through the establishment of offices in Member States and also of Regional Offices capable of observing migration phenomena and organizing adequate responses. Such a “preventive” process requires investments, particularly in all parts of the world where potential problems may be detected and in developing countries where “migration and development” have to be linked. On the other hand, we have the Member States which either have limited resources or are determined not to increase their contributions to the institutions of the United Nations system and other international organizations. With the IOM staff responsible for drafting proposals, we have tried to ensure the coherence of the proposals prepared, while at the same time taking account of the aspirations of Member States, particularly those of the countries with the most needs, in the South.

21. I very soon became interested in the problems of the countries and regional institutions of other continents, especially Asia and Latin America. A first mission in Asia, in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, in August 2000, enabled me to make fruitful contacts with the authorities of these countries, to assess the extent of the problems with which they are faced and to hear from these authorities what they expect from IOM. The regional forum of the Asia Pacific Consultations (APC) was an opportunity for me to broaden the horizon of my contacts and to understand the efforts of this concertation. In 2001, I hope to visit Viet Nam, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia.

22. With regard to the Middle East, I visited Jeddah this year in order to establish relations with the Islamic Development Bank. These contacts are very promising and we expect this institution soon to finance some of our projects. In the Middle East, too, an appointment has been made with the Yemen authorities in January 2001 for the signature of an agreement with that country.

23. **Thirdly and finally**, I should like to share with you my ideas concerning the future.

- (a) Following the example of Latin America, we thought that a strategic document would be required to anchor Africa firmly in IOM practices. This exercise is complex and delicate and that is why we will be proceeding by stages and successive consultations. You will find the first version prepared by IOM among the Council documents and we are looking forward to receiving your comments and suggestions. On this basis, we hope to be able to prepare an improved version on which it will be possible to build short-, medium- and long-term action plans.
- (b) With regard to developing countries in general, I am convinced of the need to strengthen their capacity for dealing with migration phenomena. Many countries need to train their officials, to install networks to collect and analyse data on population movements within their national territories, across their frontiers with neighbouring countries or towards more distant countries. Only if these structures exist and are functional will such countries be able to define and apply a migration policy. The training includes that of staff specialized in dealing with the populations most “at risk”, such as women and children, who need special attention. We feel that this type of action, primordial for all the developing countries which need it, should be carried out at the regional level, in partnership with the organizations that the countries have established.

Accordingly, IOM should promote “regional dialogues” that can improve diplomatic contacts and consultative procedures among the countries of a region. This is the case of the “MIDSA” (Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Following the Dakar appeal of October 2000, the same arrangements could emerge in West Africa, Central Africa and East Africa (the Maghreb being included in the Mediterranean area).

- (c) Our RQAN (Return of Qualified African Nationals) programme will also give us an opportunity to develop and test new concepts **in Africa**. Indeed, this programme which has contributed greatly to our renown in the area of returns and enabled us to return some 2,000 highly-qualified volunteers to their homes since 1983, has been evaluated by the European Union, with the resulting recommendations that not only should the programme be continued, but that the partnership should be expanded. IOM hopes that this new phase of the RQAN will continue to help the countries of the South to reach out to their expatriate qualified nationals on the basis of the voluntary return of individuals, of well identified needs and of negotiated agreements in which the commitments of the parties are made perfectly clear. IOM also would like this new phase of the RQAN to be innovative: (1) that the process of conceptualization and implementation should involve not only the governments of the beneficiary countries (countries of origin) and the host countries, but also associations of the diaspora (host countries) and of former migrants (countries of return), as well as all the forces affecting employment in Africa, particularly the private sector of the South as of the North (for their investments and consequent creation of employment), the World Bank and other bilateral and multilateral donors which, through structural adjustment plans and other conditions, limit the total wage bill of the public sector of the country of return; (2) that the programme should concern nationals of the country of origin as well as former nationals (who have adopted another nationality); (3) that the return may be temporary and/or sequential, or even virtual; and (4) that emphasis may be put on francophone countries, which have been somewhat neglected during earlier phases. The reconceptualization seminar scheduled for next week in Libreville, Gabon, will be of interest to all potential participants and to IOM through qualified experts both from governments and institutions of the North and the South and from the private sector and civilian society (non-governmental organizations of the diaspora in particular).
- (d) With regard to Asia and Latin America, the major problems of the countries and institutions of these regions are of concern to me: the settlement of post-conflict situations, trafficking in persons, the special situation of women and children, the pandemics that accompany migration, and so forth. I will visit a number of countries in these regions in 2001; a field visit is always an enriching experience, as it enables one to get to know people and institutions and thus to work better with them.

The Puebla Process has been and will remain exemplary. I plan to participate in regional meetings which will enable us to visualize globally all the problems relating to migration management.

- (e) Finally, in general, we should like IOM expertise to be taken more into consideration wherever appropriate and particularly on the agendas of the main United Nations agencies or major international institutions. Thus, along the lines of our participation in the Durban meeting on

HIV/AIDS this year, we should like to be associated with such major worldwide meetings as the one which is to convene the least developed countries in Brussels in May 2001 at the initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), or such continental ones as the summit of OAU Heads of State in Zambia in July 2001 or the World Conference against Racism to be held by the United Nations in 2001 in Durban, South Africa.

24. Apart from our search for more financial resources, we are seeking to enhance our political image and the recognition of our *savoir faire* and of the great challenges that accompany the migratory movements in the world and the development of our countries. This is a difficult task to which I intend to devote all my efforts, side by side with the Director General.