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**Statement for the General Debate
International Organization for Migration
Ninetieth Council Session
1st December 2005**

1. As of the migrant situation in Germany I will provide you first with a short general overview:
Germany has a population of 82 million people. Included are 6.7 million registered foreigners, around 2 million from European Countries and 4.5 million from Third States. Estimations of the number of irregular migrants living in Germany range from 500.000 to one million, the tendency is falling. At the beginning of the year 2005 a new Immigration Act entered into force. It contains after four years of years of controversial debate and a compromise of all relevant political parties the German migration policy. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees within the direction of the Federal Ministry of the Interior is the central administration on the federal level, involved with migration, asylum, integration and voluntary return.
2. After Art. 6 of the IOM Constitution the functions of the Council are: to determine the policies of the Organization, to review the reports and to approve and direct the activities of the Executive Committee, to review the reports and to approve and direct the activities of the Director General, to review and approve the programme, the budget, the expenditure and the accounts of the Organization and to take any other appropriate action to further the purposes of the Organization. As German delegate to the Council I would like to contribute the following two points for the **direction of the activities**. The first point concerns the "International Dialogue on Migration" and the second the overlapping of activities with other international organisations.
3. Gervais Appave left us with the question about the future of the "International Dialogue on Migration". **This dialogue should go on.** As was evident on the first two days of the 90th Council meeting IOM has provided the Delegates with excellent panellists who discussed the current migration aspects with great expertise taking into account the results of the latest reports of the Global Commission on International Migration, the World Migration Report and the World Bank's Global Economics Prospects 2006. Also in regard of the two Intersessional Workshops it can be stated that this dialogue helped Member States and Observers to identify and discuss key challenges in the field of international migration and ultimately to enhance capacity to manage orderly migration. It is especially helpful to gain insights of the point of view of other countries. Concrete examples like the policies from El Salvador inspire ideas for policy makers. For the future dialogue I have the following suggestions:

- a. Discuss the difficulties of **integration**. Host societies are interested in the integration of long term migrants for a lot of reasons. Integration is one of the most important conditions to create a win-win situation in the receiving societies. In depth integration often means a loss of ties to the country of origin at least in further generations of the migrant family. To profit from the diaspora countries of origin need close ties to the migrants abroad. So there might be a conflict of interest which should be discussed openly. I could also imagine that IOM as an organization with a vast intercultural experience could offer more services in the field of integration.
 - b. Offer intersessional workshops not only in Geneva but **on location** in receiving and sending countries. This would allow to gain first hand impressions and would provide the opportunity to bring in the perspectives of local authorities, NGO's, trade unions, scientific institutions etc. This could lead to a much better understanding of the needs and concerns between the migratory partners. The organization of such a workshop could be managed by the government with the support of the local IOM Mission.
4. IOM has provided Germany with many useful services in a professional and effective way and Germany is very satisfied about this co-operation. This has ensured a steady flow of common projects not only in the past but will continue in the future. The high potential of the Organization has led to a vast expansion process in acquiring new members, financial contributions and staff members as well as to the overlapping of activities in the field of refugee issues, development and remittances. Therefore we support a broad strategy discussion about the **mandate of IOM** and welcome the initiative of H.E. Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba from Mexico who submitted a strategy document. Most helpful for the necessary consolidation will also be the proactive initiative of the Director General Brunson McKinley to enlarge the interagency co-operation already in December 2005.