

Statement by the Commissioner for the National Migration Institute of Mexico, Mr. Lauro López Sánchez, in the General Debate of the 90th OIM Council Meeting, Geneva, December the 1st 2005

Mister Ambassador of Pakistan Massod Khan, Chairman for the International Migration Organization's Council

Mister Brunson McKinley, Director General for the International Migration Organization

Ladies and Gentlemen, Representatives and Observers of the Organization

On behalf of my delegation receive, Mister Ambassador Massod Khan, our congratulations for your election as Chairman of the Council, as well as for the election of all the members of the board, which mandate will surely be very constructive and successful.

I would also like to recognize what was expressed by the Director General, Mister Brunson McKinley, who once more has shown his extensive knowledge about the complexity of migration and who, with a long term vision, has known how to commit his leadership and experience to confront the challenges our Organization faces. Thank you Mister McKinley, for your unconditional support to Mexico, and in particular to Ambassador De Alba during his mandate as Chairman of the Council.

Mister Chairman,

The Mexican migration authorities wish to extend their approval for the quality of the debate contents as well as for the migration considerations that this Council has achieved to construct.

Mexico completely endorses the consolidation of a speech and a coherent conceptual platform about migration.

In fact it is indispensable to demand political coherence to the governments in the design and in the execution of the migration public policies.

This is a crosscutting issue which involves governmental aspects such as economy, finance, foreign affairs, labor, development, health, education and security, among others, but it also involves state and municipal governments.

Such coherent platform is as demanded to governments in their internal sphere, as well as in their bilateral, sub regional, regional and multilateral understandings.

Such coherent platform is as demanded to governments, businesspersons, academics, Non Governmental Organizations as well as to national legislators that make their efforts to modernize our respective normative structures.

Recently Mexico carried out an evaluation exercise that involved legislators, academics, Social Civil Organizations and the Federal Government, the results of this exercise are described in the document called "**Mexico and the Migration Phenomenon**", which has already been distributed to the Council members.

This document was given for the consideration of public opinion last October and still should receive the approval and the support of other sectors of the Mexican society, in order to contribute to the consolidation of a comprehensive and coherent Migration State Policy.

With the same spirit my Delegation wishes to share this document with all of you and with your distinguished Governments.

As you can see this document settles principles to guide the course of action of the government and the Mexican society, from which I would like to highlight the following:

The international implications that this phenomenon represents to Mexico require foreign commitments and actions - in particular with neighboring countries and regions- that in an international cooperation framework should be guided under the Shared Responsibility Principle.

In developing and applying our laws and migration policies, Mexico should full respect the human rights of migrants and their families, regardless of their nationality and migratory condition, as well as for refugees and asylum seekers in accordance with the international instruments in these matters.

One of the provisions includes the position for an eventual migratory reform within the United States Congress, which may explain our search for an understanding related to the complex migratory phenomenon, that all of you are aware of, between Mexico and the United States of America.

With good will and political coherence, my Government called for a national referendum in order to identify the basis for an **"Integral Migratory Policy Proposal for Mexican Southern Border"**, which conclusions were presented to the public opinion last November 11, and I avail myself to share them with you.

The objective is to build a comprehensive model that, with the participation of the Mexican society as well as with the International Community, could serve as an example, for the world, of a Coherent Migratory Politic.

In this platform we can identify four strategic lines with specific programs, projects and actions:

1. Facilitation of documented migration flows whose temporary and final destination are the Mexican southern border states.
2. Protection of the rights of migrants entering through Mexican southern border.
3. Contribution to security for Mexican southern border;
4. Permanent flow management and migratory legislation updating, considering phenomenon's particularities of the Mexican southern border.

On this proposal my government has already required the extensive IOM experience. I now leave this project for you and your countries' consideration with the hope of receiving your comments.

Mister Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

The International Organization for Migration has a core responsibility to manage the difficult duty of international migration with a comprehensive and multidimensional view, taking into account its causes, such as poverty and unemployment, as well as its effects, linked with other issues of the international agenda as development, trade, health and human rights.

Mexico considers essential to develop a NEW CULTURE ON MIGRATION able to focus the migrant as a human being and as the central part of any migratory initiative.

A comprehensive basis on migration should be supported on the principles of full respect of human rights of migrants, despite their migratory condition, the shared responsibility among States and on a greater and deeper cooperation between international organizations.

A new culture on migration should be coherent at the national level, as well as in the binational, sub regional, regional or international understandings.

A new culture should promote positive elements of migration, emphasizing irregular migration.

To achieve this goal, Mexico assumes its responsibility as a country of origin, transit and destination of migrants, formulating and executing national public policies with concrete and coherent proposals, which already identify migration as a priority axis of the government.

As the working document IC/2005/13 stated from the International Dialogue we have just approved, national efforts oriented to give an institutional coherence in migration should keep a strong relationship with similar efforts performed in others countries and international fora at sub regional, regional and international level.

For the Mexican government, the mechanisms and international institutional processes established within the United Nations framework to manage migratory phenomenon should count with the permanent and active participation of the States, as key actors in the international efforts on this issue.

There will not be any international coherence as long as the inter-agency coordination is not established with the support and, in certain circumstances, the supervision of the States.

Due to its demonstrated multilateral pattern, Mexico has developed a deep cooperation with several international fora to build consensus to face the challenges and take advantage of international migration, acknowledging human rights and dignity of migrants.

From what has been said, the Mexican Delegation offers its disposition and commitment to identify, in the IOM framework, new formulas and creative mechanisms of international cooperation in order to support national efforts to face and take advantage, in a coherent and comprehensive manner, of international migration. Let us make a commitment, from now and on, to build a NEW CULTURE ON MIGRATION.

Thank you.