

**SPEECH BY MR ATHANASSIOS NAKOS,
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REPUBLIC
& CHAIRMAN OF THE THIRD GLOBAL FORUM ON
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT,
AT THE 96th SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL**

Chairman, Director General,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to be here today, attending the Ninety-Sixth Session of the IOM Council, as future Chair of the Third Global Forum on Migration and Development.

I would like, first of all, to congratulate you, Director General, on your election at the head of the International Organisation for Migration. Greece fully shares your key priorities and overall objectives for the Organization and wishes you full success in fulfilling your mandate. We look forward to further strengthening our cooperation.

Allow me also to pay tribute to the Deputy Director General for her remarkable contribution to IOM's objectives and particularly in the field of migration and development.

As future Chair of the GFMD, I will seize this opportunity to extend my congratulations to the Philippines Chair, and particularly Undersecretary Esteban Conejos, for the excellent organization of the Manila GFMD. Indeed, the Belgian and the Philippines Chairs both conducted very successful and result-oriented Fora: concrete recommendations were adopted, thus setting high standards for the organization of the next Global Forum.

As host and organizer of the Third Forum, **the Greek Chair is committed to respect transparency and to ensure the continuity and the institutional memory** of this ongoing process by building on the substantive achievements of the Brussels and Manila meetings, as well as the structural framework and the working methods set up this far.

Greece is a country which has deeply experienced migration to third countries. In recent years, Greece has seen a radical change from a migrant-generating country to a migrant-receiving one. Having experienced all these, our migration policy aims at an orderly migration, with due respect to the rights of migrants and their integration into our society. **Migration, into our internal policy, is now considered as a tool for growth.**

Migration is a complex and ever growing phenomenon which demands a holistic approach and an effective address. Managing the impacts of migration requires interdependence amongst all policies and countries to achieve significant benefits for the global welfare. It is beyond doubt that, in today's globalised world, no country could

effectively succeed in its social and economic efforts if the migration issue is not included in the global picture.

The impact of the global financial crisis on migration is one of the challenges to which we should try to respond as well. Yesterday's panel discussions have clearly demonstrated the need to further reflect on the issue. We think that the third GFMD could offer an appropriate platform for this.

Moreover, **the European Pact on Asylum and Migration**, recently adopted by the EU, refers, amongst others, to the creation of a global partnership with the countries of origin and transit. It is foreseen that synergies between migration and development are further developed, enhancing, in this way, the integration of migration policies in development strategies. We strongly believe that development policies gain in efficiency if migration is included in their planning.

International migration needs to be an integral part of the development agenda, as well as part of national, regional and international development strategies.

The Greek Chair is, thus, proposing the overarching theme of the Third GFMD to be: **“ INTEGRATING MIGRATION POLICIES IN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL AND ESPECIALLY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN”**.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our view, a key for the success of the Third Forum will be to define practical solutions to concrete problems. We need to identify good practices, but also policy gaps; we need to find ways to integrate migration policies in development and ensure long term stability and we especially need to conduct an open and frank dialogue.

During the Greek Chairmanship, we will also strive to maintain the strong link of the GFMD with the UN. His Excellency, the Secretary General of the United Nations himself, as well as his Special Representative Mr. Peter Sutherland, have offered an extremely valuable support to the GFMD. We intend to further strengthen this link.

Moreover, we look forward to cooperating with international organizations which are a valuable source of expertise for the GFMD. Indeed, individual member agencies of the GMG have provided substantive support to the GFMD. In this context, we do welcome the prospect of a more coherent inter agency cooperation, as discussed yesterday.

Last but not least, I will particularly refer to the IOM's expertise in the field. The current GFMD Chair will also sign shortly] a Memorandum of Understanding with IOM for hosting the GFMD Support Unit.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The interstate dialogue of the Third Global Forum on Migration and Development **will be held in Athens** on the **4th and 5th of November 2009**. It will be preceded, on the 2nd and 3rd of November 2009, by the Civil Society Days, the organization of which

has been entrusted with the “Alexandros S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation”.

The road to Athens will open soon with the handover of the Chair by the Philippines to Greece. No doubt it will be a long road, but, I hope, also an exciting and constructive one. **May I, therefore, invite all of you to support the efforts of the Greek Chair of the Third Global Forum.**

Thank you.