

As written



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

**THIRTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Statement

by

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Permanent Observer to the United Nations**

**ITEM 3: Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the
International Conference on Population and Development.**

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IOM Statement to the Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) appreciates this opportunity to make a statement under agenda item 3, given our commitment to achievement of the goals set out in Chapter X of the Programme of Action dealing with international migration.

One of the overarching objectives of that Chapter of the Programme of Action is to achieve better co-operation and dialogue between countries of origin and countries of destination, in order to maximise the benefits of migration for the development of both sending and receiving countries. For that dialogue to be more fruitful, it needs to be informed by better data and clearer understandings of the determinants and dynamics of migration. It was with that objective in mind that the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development, which took place in The Hague from 29 June to 3 July 1998, was conceived. IOM is pleased to have been an active partner, alongside UNFPA, the Population Division, **ILO**, UNHCR, UNESCO and the regional commissions, in developing and staging that Symposium. An impressive range of documents on regular and irregular migration; on social, cultural and economic aspects of migration; on outflows of populations and returns, were prepared for the Symposium by internationally respected migration experts from all world regions. The discussion of them elicited new perspectives, as is well reflected in the Secretary General's Report (document **E/CN.9/1999/3**) summarizing the deliberations, which is before this session for consideration. We encourage governments to go beyond that necessarily brief report, and to delve into the more detailed rapporteur's report and, indeed, the expert papers themselves. They contain a wealth of information and insights, and I am pleased to see that copies of both are available in the back of the room.

This **ICPD** goal of fostering deeper understanding of the causes and consequences of migration and how migration can be better managed to the mutual benefit of all concerned is one IOM pursues through a number of other activities. Allow me to mention just one here today. In 1997, we launched a policy-oriented project entitled "New International Regime for Orderly Movements of People", whose purpose is to build international consensus on the elements of migration management. With financial support from UNFPA and the Governments of Sweden and the Netherlands, the initial research has triggered two international meetings so far – the most recent held last December in Geneva – where countries of origin, destination and transit have come together to discuss difficult but essential issues such as the return and readmission of migrants. The twenty-three countries that participated in this meeting have recommended that IOM continue and expand this initiative.

Activities such as these, and in particular the Technical Symposium I mentioned a moment ago, are, at their level, important contributions to international technical dialogue on current migration issues and concerns. Their output can and should also strengthen the increasing number of regional intergovernmental consultation processes. The development of the latter is one of the most important advances since Cairo on the road toward the regular and improved migration dialogue amongst countries of origin, transit and destination that is foreseen in the Programme of Action. Of the successful regional consultation processes launched over the past four years, allow me to highlight a few.

First is the follow-up to the 1996 United Nations Conference to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and relevant neighbouring States. IOM, as one of the three organizations which formed the joint Conference secretariat and which was specifically tasked with pursuing realization of its Plan of Action, remains fully committed to this unique undertaking, provided the adequate resources.

Second, the so-called "Puebla Process" brings together all the countries of Central and North America for regular, constructive dialogue on migration issues, including an annual session at the vice-ministerial level. Since its creation in 1996, the Puebla Process has produced encouraging results, and IOM is pleased to provide its ongoing logistical and substantive support at the invitation of participating States.

Third, in East and South East Asia, two regional migration consultation processes are ongoing. One, focused on irregular migration and trafficking in East and South-East Asia, is known as the "Manila Process"; since 1996, it has brought together each year seventeen countries for regular exchange of information. The second Asian regional process, known as the Asia-Pacific Consultations (APC), is co-sponsored by IOM and UNHCR. It provides for consultations amongst governments in Asia and Oceania on a broad range of population movements in the region. Both of these ongoing dialogues will be strengthened by the ministerial-level International Symposium on Migration which the Royal Thai Government will be hosting in Bangkok next month. The search for solutions to the many migration-related problems affecting the region becomes of particular relevance in light of the economic crisis affecting parts of Asia, and IOM is honoured to have been invited to be the Thai governments partner in the joint secretariat for this event.

Migration consultation mechanisms, I am pleased to see, have been favourably noted in the both the review and appraisal document and the key actions document prepared for consideration by this Commission acting as Preparatory Committee for **ICPD+5**. In fact, their positive track record has elicited considerable interest in other sub-regions, where similar initiatives are in the planning stage. IOM has offered its support for them as well.

Mr. Chairman,

Before closing, I would like to touch upon one final element in this migration management scenario that is also very present in Chapter X of the Programme of Action. That is technical cooperation with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, a field IOM is increasingly active in. In this connection, I am pleased to inform the Commission about a new International Migration Policy and Law Course recently launched as a joint venture by UNITAR, UNFPA and IOM. Designed primarily as a regional, **practice-oriented** training for middle and senior level government **officials**, it was held for the first time in Budapest in November 1998, where it received very positive feedback from participants. The next training session will take place South Africa in April 1999. We see this course as an excellent complement to our own technical cooperation activities, and a further impetus to inter-agency collaboration in increasing knowledge about international migration and strengthening migration management capacities – two critical elements of the **ICPD** Programme of Action.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.