

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

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18 January 2016



Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to invite you to deliver the keynote address at the opening of the 108th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which will take place in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations, from 6 to 9 December 2016, and will mark the 65th anniversary of IOM's founding in Brussels on 5 December 1951.

Besides being a significant IOM anniversary, this is a particularly important year for the topic of migration following the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development for the next 15 years. The new agenda includes important references to migration, making migration part of mainstream global development policy for the first time. These are encouraging signs of the will of the international community to strengthen cooperation on international migration and to work towards maximizing the positive relationship between migration and development.

At the same time, however, we see ongoing human tragedies involving migrants, refugees and displaced persons in many parts of the world. The need for the international community to respond efficiently and effectively to migration challenges is greater than ever, and re-emphasizes the imperative to take action and to foster international cooperation. IOM applauds the decision by the United Nations General Assembly to hold a high-level meeting on the challenges of large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016.

The Council, which is the principal policy-making body of the Organization, is attended by more than 160 Member States and Observer States, many UN agencies and civil society representatives, and is open to the public. The audience would benefit from hearing your views on the outcome of the 19 September high-level meeting, as well as how you see the global institutional architecture on migration functioning in years to come.

Having you present your contribution would be a privilege for IOM and of immense value to our membership as they discuss the promotion of safe and orderly migration and seek practical solutions for today's challenges related to human mobility. If, as I sincerely hope, you can confirm your availability, it will be an honour and a pleasure to welcome you to the Council.

With highest esteem

Sincerely,

William Lacy Swing
William Lacy Swing

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
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Cc: United Nations Office in Geneva