



Statement by H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer
of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva
at the Special Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration
Geneva, 30 June 2016

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The Delegation of the Holy See would like to express its gratitude to the Director General for his determined efforts in successfully arriving to this historical agreement and to you Ambassador De Crombrugghe for your firm leadership during the meetings of the Working Group.

My Delegation would like to congratulate and welcome the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and the People's Republic of China as new members of the IOM family.

While the agreement reflects the conditions that we Member States outlined in Resolution 1309, the Holy See considers it particularly opportune **not to lose sight of the basic purposes** of this agreement, which is to increase and strengthen our efforts to protect and assist migrants.

As we continue to witness a dramatic increase in the number of migrants and refugees in the world, what must prevail now as a direct consequence of this agreement is not so much politics, but rather a strengthened response in meeting the human needs of migrants, as they move across various regions of the world.

My Delegation in joining the consensus for this agreement wishes to also express its desire that this agreement would in no way detract from the original mandate and mission of the IOM. In particular, with reference to Article 2.5, my Delegation would have preferred for the protection of the autonomy of the IOM the deletion of the phrase "*and with due regard to the policies of the United Nations furthering those Purposes and Principles and to other relevant instruments in the international migration, refugee and human rights fields.*" However, this reservation does not affect our consensus.

Once again, my Delegation would like to join other Delegations in thanking the Director General for his unwavering commitment in carrying forward IOM's mission to meet the growing operational challenges of migration management, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.