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IOM International Organization for Migration  
IOM Kansainvälinen siirtolaisuusjärjestö  
IOM Internationella migrationsorganisationen

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For immediate release**

**18 August 2006**

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### **The Regional IOM Office in Helsinki becomes IOM's Nordic Resettlement Centre**

The Regional Office of the International Organization for Migration will take up its full functions as the Nordic Resettlement Centre as of Monday, 21 August 2006.

Through the Nordic Resettlement Centre, IOM will support the resettlement of several thousands of refugees every year to the Nordic countries.

Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden are worldwide among the most important resettlement countries for refugees and migrants and have worked successfully with IOM for many years on the whole spectrum of resettlement and related issues. IOM provides logistical and movement arrangements at point of departure, transit and destination but also other services, such as preparation of the refugees for their new life through cultural orientation classes, medical screening and health checks for refugees including the provision of medical escorts, assistance to facilitate the integration process of the newcomers, etc.

Since summer 2005, IOM has been working on the formalization and standardization of its long-standing and successful cooperation with the Nordic countries concerning refugee resettlement and family reunification.

Following the signing of cooperation agreements with the governments of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and recently Finland, the Regional Office in Helsinki becomes IOM's Nordic Resettlement Centre.

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**Mission with Regional Functions - Regional Office for the Nordic and Baltic States,  
and the European Neighbourhood countries (East)**

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The Centre in Helsinki enables IOM to provide streamlined and more efficient resettlement processing for the benefit of refugees and migrants as well as the sponsoring governments and other partners. The Centre in Helsinki will oversee resettlement activities to the Nordic countries performed by IOM missions all over the world.

“We believe that the Nordic Resettlement Centre located in the region will enhance the coordination between the sponsoring governments and partners in the Nordic countries and IOM missions world-wide and thus improve services provided to refugees, migrants and all other parties interested, such as resettlement municipalities and social workers”, explains Dr Thomas Weiss, the IOM Regional Representative.

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