

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AT GENEVA

MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE TURQUIE
AUPRES DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
A GENEVE



**INTERVENTION BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR MEHMET FERDEN ÇARIKÇI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA**

103rd Session of the Council
IOM

Geneva, 26-29 November 2013 – Palais des Nations (Room XVII)

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director General,
Distinguished Colleagues,

At the outset, let me take this occasion to express one more time that we were deeply saddened by the tragic attack on IOM's compound in Kabul six months ago, resulting in the death of an international staff member.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate you on your election and express our gratitude to your predecessor Ambassador Abdul Hannan for his personal commitment and valuable guidance during the year. We believe that we will also achieve a substantial progress in our efforts under your leadership.

We are also pleased to welcome Turkmenistan, Iceland, Fiji and Marshall Islands as new members of IOM.

Mr. Chairman,

When we think about the world's 232 million migrants, we feel obliged to strengthen our efforts and take action to contribute to the migrants' well-being and prosperity. We believe that every life lost along the migratory routes, imposes us a moral imperative to better manage migration.

It is our firm belief that the first necessary step is to engage in a dialogue. Therefore, IOM as the leading international migration agency has utmost importance.

We appreciate and support the work and efforts of IOM under the able leadership of Director General Swing and his strong team. In this vein, we thank Mr. Director General for his report to the Council.

We are pleased that we have achieved progress in administrative and budgetary matters. We would like to underscore the effective work carried out by Ambassador de Crombrugghe in conducting the budget discussions. Moreover, we believe that the newly initiated Working Group on IOM-UN relations will help us evaluate pros and cons of the current status.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey and IOM cooperate in various fields spanning from migration management to voluntary return, from prevention of trafficking in human beings to integration. IOM has accumulated significant experience in Turkey. Let me underline the contribution of IOM's Turkey Office during the preparatory work of the new International Protection and Foreigners Law that has been adopted

this year in April. This law brings a new, contemporary vision and approach to the policies of Turkey in the field of international protection.

We have also achieved a lot of progress in combating human trafficking with the assistance of IOM's Turkey Office.

Furthermore, as the Chair of the Budapest Process, we value IOM's contribution to this platform.

We believe that our cooperation helps migrants and victims of trafficking keep their dignity and well-being. We wish to further deepen and expand our collaboration.

Mr. Chairman,

IOM's assistance in emergencies, be they natural or man-made, is crucial as we have seen and continue to witness, such as in Libya, Haiti, Syria and the Philippines.

We think that the migration crisis operational framework that we have adopted at the 101st Council has paved the way for a better and coherent response to the crisis by IOM.

We had an excellent cooperation with IOM in the evacuation of third country nationals in Libya. Furthermore, IOM works with the UN team for providing assistance to the Syrians in Turkey who fled from their country. We would also like to commend the efforts being carried out by IOM in the Philippines in the aftermath of the Typhoon Haiyan.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that migrants are the elements that diversify and enrich the culture of the society they live in, as well as contribute to the economies of the host countries. Therefore, we would like to call on the States that have not yet done so, to adhere to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers.

In this respect, let me commend the success of the Diaspora Ministerial Conference held in last June in Geneva. It provided us a timely opportunity to exchange views, share best practices and lessons learnt. We are of the opinion that the next Conference on migrants and cities will also contribute to our efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that it is high time to seize the opportunities in order to improve the plight of the migrants. In this regard, we support a vision that explores ways in which migration can be integrated in the UN agenda as an enabler for human development.

To this end, the Second High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Migration and Development, held recently in New York, was a significant event. We appreciate the work carried out by IOM during the preparations of the HLD. The Declaration adopted at the HLD presents us several opportunities to enhance our efforts in the field of migration and development.

Furthermore, we value the role of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) as an important platform for the States. Turkey will assume the Chairmanship of the GFMD after Sweden for the period of 2014-2015.

From the very same perspective, we commend IOM's efforts as the present Chair of the Global Migration Group in order to create synergy among different platforms and actors.

To conclude with, Turkey is resolved to spare no effort in the way to better manage migration and protect human lives with a view to strengthen cooperation in the international fora. Within this framework, we will host the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 that will coincide with the 65th Anniversary of IOM.

Thank you.