



**AFGHANISTAN**

*Agenda item 6: General Debate*

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Assad Omer**

**Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan**

**at the Eighty-eight Session of the Council  
30 November- 3 December 2004,**

**International Organization for Migration**

**Geneva**

*Please check against delivery*

Distinguished delegates, -

Ladies and gentlemen,

*It is a great pleasure for my delegation to participate in our first session of the Council as a Member of the IOM.*

We would like to extend our congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Vice-Chairman on ~~your election~~, and to the Director General <sup>and to the Deputy Director General</sup> for ~~his~~ <sup>their</sup> excellent activity report, and his work at the helm of IOM.

*and Observers.*

My Delegation welcomes the newly admitted Members ~~We are confident that Bahamas, Estonia, Brazil and Turkey will bring along their rich experiences on policy options and practical solutions to the migration issues.~~

IOM's ~~successful programmes and~~ growing membership <sup>is</sup> a reflection of the dynamism of the Organization. IOM has become a major global organization in the field of international migration. It has been growing fast and has expanded to new areas of interest to many countries including mine where efforts continue to consolidate the peace and enable people to return <sup>to their country</sup>. It has provided valuable core humanitarian and post-conflict support in my country, together with technical assistance and capacity-building by facilitating the return of skilled workers and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons. *Mention should be made of the assistance provided by IOM to organization of our ever first presidential election in order to allow refugees in Pakistan and Iran to participate in this election.* The report of the Director General refers to IOM's wide-ranging expertise and services. Activities in the reporting period show that the Organization is useful for the governments in making arrangements for the organized transfer of migrants.

The Organization has proven its flexibility in assisting with the movement of people, helping States to develop migration infrastructures and assisting regional organizations and facilitating and promoting the dialogue on migration so that the international community could respond more comprehensively to migration issues.

Since migration has become a major issue in the international agenda it is important that the issue is seen in the global context, for example, migration has to be linked to *development*. Despite its

growing magnitude, migration is not yet fully integrated into development policy. In this respect, we ~~are~~ ~~looking~~ forward with interest to the forthcoming inter-sessional workshop on *Migration and Development* to be held early next year. We would like to commend the leading role of IOM in bringing migration to the fore of many international fora that has recognized the cross-cutting nature of migration developments.

*The Consultation of Berne Initiatives,*

We welcome ~~the~~ establishment of the Geneva Migration Group (GMG) and consider the creation of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) as an effective means of managing the growing complexities of migration. ~~Association of IOM with~~ *In the same thought we welcome the collaboration between IOM* ILO, UNCTAD, UNHCHR, and UNHCR could contribute to better understanding of linkages between migration and development, in other words to better elucidate the development dimension of migration.

Mr. Chairman,

Valuing migration is an important factor in understanding the cooperation between source and destination countries ensuring economic benefits from the gains of migration for both countries. The enormous potential of remittances needs to be underscored. Information for migrants to decide how to allocate and invest their remittances would be useful including incentives such as the creation of small and medium-sized businesses ~~and other investment schemes~~ *and other investment schemes*. Returnees could contribute to the local economy, bringing back innovative ideas and management and technical expertise. We are convinced that migration holds vast potential for development and poverty reduction.

A balanced approach to migration, as one of the many facets of globalization, is necessary in areas such as migration policies, investment, and capacity-building, transfer of technology to developing countries, labour force issues and remittances. Hence, there is a need for regional, interregional and international cooperation, including close ~~coordination~~ *cooperation* with other international organizations.

Recent years showed growing interest in the Diaspora's development connection which concerned remittances but also the changing nature of peoples' movements. Those who migrated now tended to maintain ties with their ~~countries of origin~~ *economies*. We feel there is room for more

discussion and exchange of experiences in elaborating policies to maximize benefits of this phenomenon on development. It is important to identify common principles ~~for migration and in~~ best practices. Capacity building is necessary so that all countries could benefit from the exchange and sharing of expertise in <sup>e</sup> that field, <sup>on</sup> ~~an~~ area in which IOM ~~is~~ <sup>should continue to be</sup> very active.

Mr. Chairman,

The Organization has a significant role as the main international forum for discussion on migration with a view to developing better balanced, more financially beneficial migration and constitutes a vehicle for raising awareness of migration issues.

At the end, we would like to reiterate our appreciation of IOM's work in emergency and post-conflict situations which is achieving significant results, *including in my country.*

I thank you, Mr. Chairman