

Statement by H.E. Mr. Zamir Akram, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan during 100th session of IOM Council
(7 December 2011)

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation
I congratulate you and all members of the Bureau on their election. *Ne* I also congratulate IOM for holding of a successful 100th Session of the Council to commemorate its 60th Anniversary. We warmly welcome *the* inclusion of new members to IOM and consider it an expression of trust and importance that member states attach to IOM. Truly, in today's interconnected and globalized world, where international migration has become inevitable, IOM has earned itself the role of being *the* a leading organisation on ~~the subject~~ of international migration.

We warmly welcome *the* Director General's ~~very~~ insightful presentations that outline *the* the genesis and development of IOM. We appreciate its contributions during 60 years of its existence and acknowledge its deep sense of professionalism and dedicated service that extends over a wide range of activities including provision of migration management, emergency response and resettlement programmes. We assure IOM of our full support in its three strategic objectives, namely leadership, operational and advocacy. We also support its ongoing reform process and sincerely believe that a well equipped, well-resourced and effective IOM to deal with challenges associated with international migration is most prudent and advisable.

In the context of global dialogue on international migration, we feel the urgent need for a coherent and effective model that maximises benefits of migration to us all as individuals and states. We feel IOM is well-poised to assume that responsibility while ensuring that States retain their sovereign right in framing migratory policies. The changing nature of human relationships and mobility both in terms of intensity and complexity dictate that we tread this path as urgently as

possible. In this regard, we acknowledge the work of the Global Commission on International Migration as an important first step towards identifying gaps in international migration governance and establishing linkages with development, trade and security issues. GFMD has further re-invigorated this process by providing a platform for promoting inter-state coordination and cooperation. We think GMG will be equally good in achieving objectives of just and fair international migration. We hold the view that in pursuit of regular, safe and humane international migration, the dialogue on migration should essentially incorporate the following four points as was highlighted by IOM during the IDM this year;

- Taking into account short-term market considerations and long-term demographic trends while framing migratory policies,
- Adjusting market/states interests with migrants needs,
- Avoiding politicization, discrimination and stigmatization of migrants,
- Promotion of inter-state dialogue to find a common ground between states of origin and destination.

In our view IOM can act as a lead agency on international migration dialogues taking place both within and outside UN system. On the one hand, it will help ensure state sovereignty while on the other hand it will create awareness of migration more as a tool for development rather than a threat to security. It can unleash true potential of migration by helping to bring change in public perceptions of migrants. It can also help bringing improvements in our approaches towards tackling migration. We welcome IOM 2010 and 2011 reports in this regard and are hopeful that states will benefit from the expertise provided in them. We also believe that IOM should rely on strengthening partnerships and ensuring coordinated action in achieving value addition and effectiveness.

In terms of its engagement on other issues such as emergency response, IOM has fulfilled aspirations of its member states. Its contribution in the Middle East this year is both encouraging and rewarding to reflect on its ability and resilience. My country remains beholden to this ability of IOM. Having delivered humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters in Pakistan in 2005, 2010 and this year, IOM has earned a great reputation and prestige there. I would like to place on record our profound gratitude to IOM, its dedicated team and Director General Swing in particular for having shown great dedication and friendship to the people of Pakistan. We know that without donors support, it would have been difficult for IOM to achieve that.

I would be a remiss if I did not express our appreciation of the work of Ambassador Jazairy of Algeria as former Chair of the Council. I would like to thank him for his visit to Pakistan this year which has produced very insightful recommendations that I am sure would be looked at very carefully by the IOM.

We also believe that IOM can help us in imparting technical training to semi and unskilled labour so as to match labour supply with demand. We are also looking towards very fruitful cooperation in the field of return migration between Afghanistan, Pakistan and IOM.

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank IOM for its professionalism and dedicated service towards its members during 60 years of its existence.
