

# **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

AFGHANISTAN STATEMENT BY MR. AZIZ OMAR, DPR

of

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNOG

at

**106<sup>th</sup> Council of the International Organization for Migrations**

GENEVA, 24-27 NOVEMBER 2015

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset let me congratulate you on your election as the Chairperson for the 106<sup>th</sup> Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). We are confident that under your able leadership, we had productive discussions; I also wish to thank Ambassador William Lacy Swing, the Director General of the IOM for his comprehensive report that focuses on “continuity, coherence and change”. Afghanistan appreciates the work of the IOM, over six decades, as the lead Agency for migration in providing humanitarian aid and protection for migrants around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The vision of the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is that “without the repatriation of its refugees, the Afghan nation remains incomplete”. The Government of Afghanistan, within the framework of the Solutions Strategy, has considered more appropriate pull factors in its newly established return and reintegration strategy.

It reaffirms the fundamental right of all Afghans to resettle in any area of the country, whether it be a rural area of origin or one of Afghanistan's cities or towns that reflect changed livelihoods and aspirations. Returnees' needs are also embedded into national priority programs in line with the Government of Afghanistan's country portfolio which is been prepared.

So far in 2015, over 55,000 registered Afghans have returned from Iran and Pakistan. It is possible that this figure will reach to 100,000 individuals. Over 80,000 unregistered Afghans have returned voluntarily and it is estimated to reach 100,000 persons.

We hope for the continued assistance to the process of Voluntary and gradual repatriation and sustainable reintegration based on absorption capacity in Afghanistan, for the asylum space persevered in all asylum countries, and that forced deportations are stopped and undocumented Afghans are registered so that the ground should paved for their voluntary and Sustainable return.

Deterioration of security situation, I am sure all of you have followed the events of the past month in Kunduz has displaced 170,000 individuals in addition to the more than 220,000 people who are currently living in Khost, Paktika, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces in the past two years, and with this increase the number of internally displaced persons has reached to one million individuals.

Although with the help of humanitarian agencies, emergency assistance is provided to those newly displaced people; however, the Government of Afghanistan based on its IDP policy is seeking to fundamentally resolve the issue of “displacement” should be eliminated from Afghanistan’s vocabulary.

While displacement is on the rise, I would like to honestly say that the Government of Afghanistan will not be able to resolve the problems of the displaced by its own and will be in need cooperation from the International Community.

In order to properly manage refugee and migration crisis, the following points should be taken into consideration:

- 1- In the first place, recognizing all asylum seekers who have so far reached to their countries of destination, without any kind of discrimination.
- 2- Help to find better ways to manage and facilitate economic migration between countries of origin and countries in need of labor migrants.
- 3- Help create better employment opportunities to prevent irregular migration.
- 4- Decisive decisions by all countries to counter organized human and migrant smuggler's networks.

Lastly, the Government of national unity is also seeking to make good on its pledge, taking into consideration the current situation of the country, to pass a refugee law in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 Convention.

Thank you Mr. Chairman