

Statement by Ambassador Tehmina Janjua
Permanent Representative of Pakistan

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Chairperson,

We congratulate you and other members of the Bureau. I am confident that under your able guidance, the IOM Council would be able to make important contributions in the field of migration.

We condemn the heinous acts of terrorism in Paris, Beirut, Istanbul and Bamako. These reprehensible acts will never dent our collective resolve to work for the humanity.

Chairperson,

We welcome Sao Tome and Principe, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Eritrea, Saint Lucia and Kiribati as the new members of IOM.

Pakistan recognizes the importance of IOM's activities and the role it is playing in forging consensus on migration related issues. We also appreciate IOM's support to Pakistan in the aftermath of the 2005 earthquake and floods.

Chairperson,

There is a dire need to change the increasingly contentious and disturbingly xenophobic discourse on migration issues. Recent developments have brought the issue of migration into sharp focus of the international community, with many countries considering migrants as a menace. This tendency must be resolutely countered.

Chairperson,

If migration issues are to be correctly addressed then we need to reaffirm certain key principles.

One, while States have the right to regulate conditions of entry and stay, migrants have the right to be protected against racism and discrimination.

Two, economic and security considerations are important, but these cannot be permitted to override the basic rights of migrants.

Three, if migrants are to be repatriated to their countries of origin, strict conditions need to be observed to ensure return with dignity, in a humane manner and after due process of law. Arbitrary measures cannot be permitted.

Four, international economic and trade policies need to be constantly reviewed to assess their impact on developing country economies. These are far too often a cause of uneven development and poverty, and are key drivers behind migration flows. Relatedly, international cooperation to mitigate the effects of climate change is also essential to address migration flows.

Five, security policies which are leading to chronic stability and conflict in various regions need to be urgently revisited.

Adherence to the above principles would be necessary if we are to achieve the migration related objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agenda recognizes the positive contributions of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. It further stresses the importance of facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration of the people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Chairperson,

IOM should take the lead in promoting the rights of migrants. It should build on its area of core competence, which is migration management.

Chairperson,

We also take note that the Director General would be formally interacting with the UN to improve the legal basis of IOM's relationship with the UN. IOM member states may be kept informed on developments in this regard.

We commend IOM for its support to the Colombo Process. We expect that IOM would continue its active engagement with the Colombo Process and help all its members in supporting their expatriate communities.

Finally, Chairperson, we thank the Director General for sharing the draft IOM Gender Policy 2016-2020 with the member states. We are encouraged by the Director General's commitment to improve gender balance and geographic distribution among the IOM staff.

I thank you.
