

Mr. Chairman!
Mr. Director-General.
Dear participants of the session!
Ladies and gentlemen!

On behalf of the delegation of Turkmenistan let me welcome you to the 106th session of the IOM Council and wish successful and fruitful work!

At the outset I would like to congratulate you Mr. Chairman with your election. Also I sincerely welcome new members of the Organization.

Distinguished members of the Council!

Turkmenistan, following the course of the fulfillment of its international obligations and acceding major international conventions in the field of humanitarian law, has integrated "migration management" into the state policy, which received an additional impulse after becoming member of the International Organization for Migration in 2013. All of these were positively reflected in the National sustainable development programs.

Turkmenistan has achieved remarkable success in implementing National sustainable development programs giving priority to improvement of the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of migrants and people in need of care.

Actively taking part at the annual IOM Council Sessions, Turkmenistan has been rapidly implementing **all priority areas of cooperation with the IOM**. It allows us to be confident about significant results achieved thanks to the **cooperation between Turkmenistan and the IOM**.

Allocation by **the National Leader esteemed President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov** cooperation projects with the IOM in a separate priority direction of the state policy is a clear indication of close attention paid to the migration issues in Turkmenistan.

This is also proved by the fact that Turkmenistan over a 2013-2015 has been providing to international community its political space to discuss current migration issues.

In this context, it should be noted that all high-level international forums held in Turkmenistan aimed to develop effective mechanisms for managing migration.

Thus, following an international conference on sharing experience in combating human trafficking, a range of measures has been carried out, which resulted in the National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking. Also, in close cooperation with IOM and civil society, mechanisms of social rehabilitation and of assistance to victims of trafficking were developed.

The 2014 International Forum on Migration and statelessness was marked by granting Turkmen citizenship to stateless persons and refugees providing them fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. Participants of the Forum adopted the outcome document aimed at further implementing of necessary measures to eliminate statelessness.

In 2015, two forums of international importance were held

- 1) migration and emergency preparedness;
- 2) migration and health.

Along with the strengthening of cooperation on international migration, legal migration platform is also getting actively improved.

In the context of the state's readiness to respond to various emergencies, Turkmenistan adopted and modernized a series of laws and regulations in the field of protection of migrants' rights and administrative management of migration, improving border management. Among them Law on Refugees, Law on Migration, Law on citizenship, Law on state of emergency.

As a result of Turkmenistan's joining Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Turkmenistan intends to open, under the auspices of the United Nations, the Centre for technologies related to the climate change in Central Asia, which was announced at the global UN summit as well.

With regard to the migration and health, Turkmenistan has achieved good results in implementing the current MDGs, especially **the 4th, 5th, 6th Goals: maternal health, child mortality, infectious diseases.**

We should also place emphasis on the progress of Turkmenistan in the field of tobacco control and use. According to statistical calculations, only 8% (eight percent) of the population remain dependent on tobacco. Today, this experience of Turkmenistan is being promoted throughout the world.

Much has been accomplished regarding such issues as migration and health in order to fulfill other identified priorities within the framework of IOM. In particular, mechanism of actions for migration and health was launched this year with the assistance of IOM, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF.

Turkmenistan, in the field of national healthcare development, international contacts and favorable domestic political climate under the President of Turkmenistan, **aims to promote health and wellness**, which again clearly shows that **the main value for Turkmenistan is human life**.

As part of the continuing a long-term cooperation with the IOM **let me assure the Secretariat, IOM, the leadership and members of the Council** - of the readiness of our country to continue fruitful cooperation with IOM in all areas to further enhance the effectiveness of measures for regulating migration and eliminating its negative manifestations at the national level.

Turkmenistan, thanks to the wise and far-sighted policy of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, will continue to cooperate actively with IOM on all initiatives and programs put forward by the Organization in increasing effectiveness of migration regulating processes.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the support provided by IOM to our country.

Thank you for attention!