



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
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Statement by H.E. Mr. CHOI, Kyonglim
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea

Thank you Mr. Chairman

At the outset, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Council in this memorable year. With great pleasure, the Republic of Korea welcomes the new member, the Kingdom of Tonga.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Director General, Ambassador William Swing and the whole IOM team. Korea greatly appreciates IOM's enormous contribution to improving migration governance and enhancing welfare of migrants through integration and protection as well as to responding to migration emergencies.

These achievements have been made possible only by the IOM's tireless pursuit of core values, namely, Δresponsiveness, Δefficiency, Δcost effectiveness and Δindependence.

Facing multiple crises and conflicts unfolding across the world, it is natural that the international community endows the IOM with a bigger responsibility in responding to these crises. With 166 member states and with total expenditures expected to reach almost 2 billion dollars next year, the IOM has become a truly global organization.

We trust that despite the expansion of size and budget, the IOM will be able to avoid organizational problems such as inertia, turf wars and bureaucracy and keep pursuing its core values.

Mr. Chairman,

In the next two years, the IOM and its member states will be actively engaged in the process for developing the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. This Global Compact will be a landmark framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migration. In this context, we have to make sure that the IOM plays “the leading role” as well as extends its expertise and advice based on its cumulated experience and global presence. IOM’s timely joining in the UN system will enable the IOM to have effective and efficient coordination with the United Nations.

Recognizing IOM's leading role in migration, Korea welcomes the IOM’s willingness to fully engage in the preparatory negotiations for the Global Compact at the regional and global level. While respecting state ownership in the negotiation process, the process needs to be open and inclusive so that all stakeholders such as civil society, NGOs, local entities and migrants themselves could meaningfully engage in it. In this sense, we expect the IOM to provide balanced and equitable perspectives leading up to the final destination.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking this opportunity, I am pleased to announce that the Republic of Korea remains a strong supporter of IOM's humanitarian activities and have responded to its appeals in Yemen, Syria, Haiti, Myanmar, South Sudan and elsewhere.

Korea is also one of the strong supporters for IOM's efforts to engage with a broad spectrum of partners, in particular with the private sector. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that Korea will make a voluntary contribution to help the IOM implement its 5-year Private Sector Partnership Strategy. We will also encourage Korean business and private sector stakeholders to work closely with the IOM in this direction.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea is experiencing an unprecedented flow of immigration. As of this year, the number of expatriates residing in Korea exceeded 2 million. The number of foreign workers registered in Korea has reached almost 1 million. The Korean government is trying to accommodate and integrate immigrants into its society through inclusive immigration policies.

It is our hope that the Migration Research and Training Center in Korea that was established in partnership with the IOM in 2009 will play an active role in addressing these challenges as a leading migration research and training center not only in Korea but also in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by reaffirming Korea's strong commitment to work closely with the IOM in all of its endeavors.

I thank you. /the end/