

**Statement by H.E. Deepak Dhital,  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal to UN  
at the 108<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council  
Geneva, 30 November 2017  
Thursday @ 10.00hrs**

Thank you, Madam Chair!  
Excellencies,  
Director General of IOM,  
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, Madam Chair, let me congratulate you on your election to the Chair of the 108<sup>th</sup> IOM Council. My delegation also congratulates the Members of the Bureau on their election. We have full confidence in your leadership and assure you of our full co-operation.

We would also like to express sincere appreciation to the outgoing chair, Ambassador John Paton Quinn of Australia, for his contribution and excellent leadership over the year.

My delegation welcomes Cuba and Cook Islands as new members of IOM, and also Dominican Republic, which is in the process of obtaining membership during this council. We also welcome the State of Kuwait and other organizations who have joined IOM as observers.

**Madam Chair,**

We thank the Director General, Ambassador William Lacy Swing, for his comprehensive report on IOM activities, including IOM's urgent humanitarian responses, its results based approach <sup>to</sup> of implementing the key

principles and objectives under Migration governance framework, and its deep engagement with the United Nations as a mainstream lead agency on migration.

Since its establishment, IOM has been playing an important role in management and operation <sup>of</sup> <sup>at aspects</sup> international migration. Given its largest field based staff, policy clarity and implementation capacity, IOM should work in more pragmatic and innovative ways to tackle with emerging challenges in the areas of large scale displacement and migration. Responses at the time of crisis call for preparedness and multi-stakeholder partnership that work in unison under a guiding framework. The mainstreaming of IOM in the UN system last year and the start of an intergovernmental consultations and negotiations process for subsequent adoption of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018 are two interesting phenomena with far reaching impact on international governance of migration and human mobility.

**Madam Chair,**

We are soon entering into the GCM negotiation phase after the stocktaking meeting at Puerto Vallarta. The stocktaking is expected to include all elements that ensure the protection of the fundamental human rights and labour rights of migrant workers in all situations and promote safe, orderly and humane migration. It will pave the way for a balanced and forward-looking zero draft for the Global Compact. IOM will have to provide expert advice and technical knowhow in the process of GCM negotiation in the same way it played such role during the multi-stakeholders consultations phase.

Further, as a lead agency in migration, there should be a significant role of IOM in the implementation, review and the follow-up of the GCM once it is adopted. All implementation related works in GCM should be anchored in SDGs, and the GCM and migration related goals and targets of SDGs should be implemented in a mutually reinforcing manner.

The capacity for involvement of the whole of government and whole of civil society for better governance and management of migration must be enhanced at national, regional and international levels. IOM should come forward to cater to the emerging demand for capacity building of entities at all levels. These must include the Regional Consultative Processes like the Colombo Process also.

**Madam Chair,**

Migration mostly takes place with fundamental objective of seeking better jobs and livelihood opportunities. Well-governed and managed migration contributes to development of the countries of origin and destination as well as transit and brings a situation of win-win for all. Climate change, large scale disasters, unresolved conflicts, natural and man-made crisis also tend to be drivers of migration. We need built-in mechanisms to address these issues at the grassroots levels through partnership and cooperation so that people have an informed choice and not just compulsion for migration when crisis occurs.

Strengthening national governance frameworks for the effective migration governance and socio-economic and cultural integration of migrant workers in the host societies will ensure the sustainable development of all, i.e. countries of origin and destination as well as migrants themselves.

My delegation emphasizes the need to address the problems of human trafficking and smuggling, contemporary forms of slavery, and the people living in vulnerable and irregular situation. Safe, orderly and regular migration must be promoted by empowering the migrant workers through pre-information, pre-departure and post arrival orientation, language and skill development training, access to education and health and social integration, recognition of skill qualification and certification, and informed access to the demand in international labor market. Lowering the cost of remittances through availability of regular and safe channels and financial inclusion of migrants also help in migrant empowerment and enhancement of their capacity to contribute more to development. Rapid use of ICT platforms in information dissemination would be helpful in this regard.

Nepal as country of origin of migrant workers highly values the significant role and contribution of all migrants workers in development of host and origin societies, and reiterates the need of respecting and ensuring the human and labour rights and fundamental freedoms of the migrant workers, irrespective of their status.

We look forward to getting constructively engaged with Member States, IOM, International organizations and other stakeholders in the area of migration management.

I thank you all.