



**STATEMENT OF MR. NGUYEN MINH VU, ASSISTANT MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE S.R. OF VIET NAM**

AT THE 108TH IOM COUNCIL MEETING

(Geneva, 28/11/2017)

H.E. William Lacy Swing, Director-General of International Organization for Migration,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honor to represent the Government of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the 108th Council Meeting of the International Organization for Migration. At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the IOM staff for excellent arrangements and preparations for this meeting.

In this event, I would also like to congratulate the IOM for its one-year anniversary of joining UN's family as the related organization of this system.

Distinguished Delegates,

In the context of today's globalization and integration, international migration is happening dynamically and impressively contributing to the economic growth as well as the sustainable development of countries in the world.

Being the sixth most populous countries in the Asia-Pacific region with abundant labor force, Viet Nam also has been catching up quickly on that vibrant flow. Human mobility in general and international migration in particular have become increasingly vital elements in the socio-economic development strategy of the Government of Viet Nam with a view to reducing poverty, creating a driving force for national sustainable development.

Nowadays, the migration patterns of Vietnamese abroad with increasing numbers have become diverse and complex such as labor migration, study, business, family reunification, marriage, tourism... Promoting regular, safe and orderly migration, especially labor migration; resolutely fighting and preventing against irregular migration, especially trafficking in persons; protecting the legitimate rights and interests of



Vietnamese people overseas; and strengthening international cooperation with other States and international organizations to effectively manage migration are among the top concerns of the Government of Viet Nam.

Distinguished Delegates

The Government of Viet Nam especially appreciates the role of IOM in the process of developing the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM), which is due to be adopted in 2018.

Until now, the first phase “Consultations” to develop the content of the GCM has been completed with the participation of UN’s Member States, international organizations, civil society, diaspora and migrant communities, private sector, research institutes and the migrants themselves. On this occasion, I would like to contribute our recommendations over the six major topics, as follows:

First, ensuring and securing the protection of human rights of all migrants must be a top priority, regardless of their legal status or nationality. Policies and laws on migration must place migrants at the center with a view to creating favorable conditions for migrants, especially migrant workers; promoting the regular migration pathways as the best solution to restrain irregular migration and human trafficking.

Second, optimizing the economic and social benefits that migration would bring through the coherence with national development policies and strategies based on the whole-of-government and whole- of- society approaches to achieve the commitments and goals related to migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Third, further enhancing the bilateral cooperation between the countries of origin and of destination to promote regular, safe, orderly and responsible migration; accessing international labor migration treaties; negotiating and concluding bilateral agreements (labor cooperation agreements, consular agreements, judicial assistance agreements...) in order to create legal framework to protect labor migrants’ rights; strengthening the coherence of migration policies between countries of origin, transit and destination.



Fourth, establishing the financial assistance mechanism at regional and global levels to develop and strengthen the capacity of States, especially those most affected by migration, to achieve the SDGs and migration related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Fifth, addressing the root causes of irregular migration and human trafficking through socio-economic programs to improve the material and spirit well-being of people, creating employment opportunities so that migration would be a “choice”, not “necessity”.

Lastly, strengthening international cooperation on the protection of migrants in crisis situations; promoting strategic and immediate approaches at the national, regional and international levels for mass migration during crisis.

Distinguished delegates,

On this occasion, I would also like to share about the important document that Viet Nam and other ASEAN Member States have achieved after nearly 10 years of discussion. It is the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, which was just signed at the ASEAN Summit two weeks ago. The mobility of migrant workers is on the rise within the ASEAN community. Thus, the ASEAN Consensus strengthens social protection, access to justice, humane and fair treatment and access to health services for the ASEAN labor migrants. This Consensus also stipulates the general principles, fundamental rights and interests as well as specific rights of migrant workers and their family members. Moreover, it establishes an important framework for closer cooperation among ASEAN Member States on addressing migrant workers' difficulties and challenges in the Southeast Asian region.

Distinguished Delegates,

We would like to express our profound gratefulness to IOM's valuable assistance in enhancing Viet Nam's capacity in the area of migration governance, especially to the active support of IOM in the development of the Viet Nam Migration Profile 2016. The Viet Nam Migration Profile 2016 can be considered as an important premise for the Vietnamese authorities in



coordinating the policy development and implementation of migration governance through analysis, assessment and prediction based on this database system. This is the very good result of the cooperation between Viet Nam and IOM.

Once again, I would like to wish you health, happiness and success!

Thank you very much for your kind attention!