

**Remarks by Ambassador Elchin Amirbayov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the 94th session of the Council
of the International Organization for Migration
Geneva, 29 November 2007**

I'll start by joining previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to Ambassador Al-Hajjaji of Libya and the outgoing members of the Bureau for their able stewardship of the Council as well as by congratulating you, Mr. Chairperson, and new members of the Bureau upon your election. I wish you every success in fulfilling the tasks before you.

Our congratulations also go to the Republic of Burundi and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam as well as *Africa Recruit, Refugee Education Trust and Femmes Africa Solidarite* on their admission to the Organization as members and observers respectively.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to express our appreciation for the leadership provided to IOM at this important juncture by Director General Brunson McKinley and thank him for his comprehensive statement in which he very clearly outlined his vision on the ways of addressing major migration challenges and shared with us the progress achieved in fulfilling important tasks since our last year's meeting.

Mr. Chairperson,

Azerbaijan recognizes the importance of the international migration as one of the key challenges for the contemporary world. For Azerbaijan, comprehensive and global approach to migration with its interdisciplinary and global nature remains to be fundamental. The establishment of a successful migration policy requires the development of a genuine partnership between all stakeholders at national, regional and international levels to better manage migratory flows, including institutional capacity building, border control, strengthening the protection of refugees along with addressing the root causes of migration and combating smuggling and trafficking in human beings. Well-managed migration is beneficial to countries of origin, transit and destination in terms of maximizing benefits the international migration brings and minimizing its adverse consequences.

IOM plays significant role in migration management both at national and international levels and the growing number of IOM members each year represents a clear recognition of IOM's role and standing in the world. We commend the IOM's capacity to respond flexibly to the needs of states and migrant communities as well as targeting the rapidly changing challenges. It is important that IOM's activities are implemented with a strategic vision so as to enable the Organizations to meet contemporary challenges in an efficient manner. Azerbaijan therefore is pleased to

note that the Administration has successfully started integrating the IOM Strategy document in all phases of the IOM's activity. It should continue serving as a set of guidelines for IOM's work in the months and years to come.

Duplication and overlap in activities with other international organizations should be avoided. We underline the importance of the IOM's close cooperation and coordination with other agencies, in particular with the UN system and Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement actors. In this context, the Global Migration Group constitutes a useful tool to enhance coordination and coherence among agencies. We hope member states will continue to be kept up to date on the developments within the GMG.

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past years, migration/development nexus has received growing prominence in migration discussions culminating with the Brussels Global Forum on Migration and Development in July this year which like UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development proved close relationship of development policies with migration ones and reaffirmed how good migration governance can contribute to development and how development policies can impact on migration. This new approach opens more opportunities for both development and migration policy objectives to be reached.

It is our strong conviction, there is a need to build on identified several action outcomes of the Brussels meeting. In this regard, we find International Partnership on Migration and Development initiative proposed by IOM to be a very interesting mechanism to ensure the follow up to the Global Forum and we will closely follow ongoing discussions on this matter.

Mr. Chairperson,

We, in Azerbaijan, have been continuing our efforts in cooperation with IOM to achieve policy coherence in migration management at national level. Since the last Council, the Government of Azerbaijan has undertaken a set of measures to further strengthen migration management. Comprehensive institutional reform process resulted in establishing the State Migration Service, single agency within the Government with a responsibility to manage migration processes and migration policy in the country and coordinate the activities of various governmental agencies. State Programme on the Establishment of Biometric Identification System in Azerbaijan for 2007-2012 was approved this March and implementation of the State Programme of Migration Management for 2006-2008 is well underway. The unified national migratory legislation is expected to be drafted for adoption as well.

Fast sustainable economic development in Azerbaijan changes migratory pattern in the country. Over recent years, Azerbaijan also has been steadily becoming the country of destination thus making the migratory trends in the country even more complex. In carrying out national initiatives, we highly value current technical and

consultative support by IOM and count on its intensification. Migration and development, border management and in broader terms further enhancement of national capacity building, in particular tackling irregular migration and trafficking in human beings are among the main priorities in our cooperation with IOM. Human resource capacity development should enjoy primarily attention in our joint cooperation.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, Azerbaijan is looking forward to continue its practical interaction with the IOM Administration in managing migration processes in the country and is viced that the action and result-oriented cooperation with the IOM that we have so much enjoyed for a decade will be further strengthened.

Thank you.