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Statement

by

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Ninety - Fourth IOM Council

Geneva, 29 November, 2007

Statement by
His Excellency Mr. Alireza Moaiyeri
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the
Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva at the 94th IOM Council
(Geneva, 29th November 2007)

In the Name of God
the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your election as the Chairman of the Ninety-Fourth IOM Council, and to other members of the bureau on their election. I also wish to express appreciations to the previous presiding bureau for their valuable efforts. I would also like to congratulate the Republic of Burundi and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on their membership to the Organization and welcome the observer status of Africa Recruit, RET and FAS.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Migration is a reality of the present world and is an economic, political, social and human phenomenon which requires comprehensive and serious attention of the world, and it is the joint responsibility of all states. Globalization and the increasing gap between the developing and developed countries in different areas such as unbalanced accumulation of capital and technology on one side, and labour force on the other, has resulted in the growth of migration and population movement. The correct reaction to, and sound management of migration could effectively contribute to narrow the gaps between human societies to the extent possible, and lead to co- existence and world solidarity.

Evidently, finding a comprehensive solution to migration problems necessitates a thorough and complete exploration of the possible ways and means. Considering only one aspect of the migration problem without due attention to other aspects and the interests and problems of all members of the international community, will not result in a sustainable solution. In this line, migration management should pay specific attention to different aspects including the relationship between migration and development, enhancement of scientific and technical cooperation, capacity building of

developing countries, enhancement in understanding the implications of national policies on migration of other countries, consideration of the principal rights and dignity of migrants, and establishment of a balanced relationship between the rights and commitments of states and migrants.

Looking more practically at the present realities of the world, we see that due to the socio - economic problems in developing countries, a considerable number of people seek to move abroad hoping for a better future. The loss of talented and educated citizens is obviously a heavy burden for developing countries. However it should not be ignored that such countries can also benefit from the expertise and knowledge of these very migrants if they choose to return. On the other hand, developed countries utilize the creative power of overseas migrants for their benefit, and at the same time, they also suffer from irregular and illegal migration flows toward their countries.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

The International Organization for Migration has a pivotal and leading role to play in managing migration and in devising solutions to the problems of irregular migration. We remain convinced, however, of the need for a better application of the IOM's abilities and potentials and the increased support and cooperation of the member states. The present international dialogue on migration is, in our view, of utmost importance and should be continued.

Turning to the IOM- UN relationship, we support the idea of continuing discussions about the different aspects of relationship of the two Organizations. We believe that upgrading of the IOM's relations with the UN system would strengthen IOM's position and enable it to better meet the requirements of the constantly changing face of migration. We are, however, aware of the need to explore in depth the different aspects of this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Neighbouring the regions which have produced large scale and protracted displacement, over more than the past two decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly been confronted with mixed population flow and irregular and illegal migration. This has placed a heavy financial burden on the Iranian nation and the government. Projects to help the authorities manage those difficulties are a real necessity. We hope that strengthening of cooperation between IOM and the Iranian government, particularly through

the established Academy on Migration and Refugee Studies (AMRS) in Tehran, shall contribute to overcoming parts of our problems. The Academy has, so far, been able to successfully conduct various training workshops on counter trafficking and border control as well as enhancement of capacity for migration management. We believe that implementation of further projects in the region, with the aim of enhancing the expertise as well as better understanding of different dimensions of migration, will certainly lead to a more efficient utilization of this phenomenon.

Thank you.
