

**Statement by  
Ambassador / Permanent Representative of Nepal,  
H.E. Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai, at the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council of  
the International Organization for Migration  
November 29, 2007**

Thank You Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me Mr. Chairman, to congratulate you on your unanimous election to the Chair. My delegation would also like to congratulate the vice-chairmen and rapporteurs for their well-deserved elections. I am confident that your wisdom and leadership will lead this session to a successful conclusion. Let me also assure you, Mr. Chairman, of my delegation's full support and co-operation in the discharge of your responsibilities.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation thanks the Director General of IOM for his comprehensive and analytical statement that outlines the IOM work plan for the current as well as for the coming year. It is a matter of great satisfaction that that IOM has already begun to integrate the contents of strategy document in its work and adopted it as a guideline for its future cooperation and coordination with its partners in the Global Migration Group.

Migration has been one of the defining phenomenon of our time. It has emerged as a dynamic and essential economic force in the era of globalizing world. It has proved itself to be an important component of growth and socio-economic development both in the countries of origin and destination. In many countries migration and remittance have made great contributions in raising the profile of the economic and social life of the people. The supply of manpower has contributed to sustain the growth and fulfil the dearly needed skilled and semi-skilled human resources in destination countries.

Mr. Chairman,

We consider the migration as an interdisciplinary issue, and therefore call for proper management of it with due respect to diverse cultures, social, economic and humanitarian issues to create safe and secured, decent and even more productive opportunities for enhancing benefits for development, creating a win-win situation for both home and host countries and minimising the risks attached to it. For migration to contribute for development, as the Director General has rightly highlighted, capacity building for successful participation in the global labour market is critically important. Equally important here are the protection of workers' interest and safeguarding their safety, security and health rights. Putting in place of the appropriate financial mechanism and infrastructures to facilitate the flow of remittance through legal channel is also equally vital for countries to benefit from their human resources living and working abroad.

Mr. Chairman,

We note with satisfaction that the task of framing of the IOM strategy has been successfully completed. This is an important achievement of the organization. The strategy document has clearly guided both path and goal of the Organization. The activities like capacity building, protecting and respecting the rights of migrant workers, providing migration related services to the needy migrants, and support States in the area of labour migration are some of the areas of interests to us. We believe that streamlining of the institutional framework of the Organization and creation of the Standing Committee on Programs and Finance will enhance responsiveness, transparency and inclusiveness in the work of the Organization. We note with interest the reference of allocating additional funding to support projects in developing countries and continue to believe that the ceiling set forth in the Strategy Document for the national project will be increased in subsequent years. I take this opportunity to express our commitment, as the Member State of this important organisation, to work closely in partnership with other Member States for the implementation of the IOM Strategy.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal has been actively associated with various activities of the IOM since it became a member of the organization last year. IOM has provided critical support and cooperation for our migrant workers in times of need. We have also been actively participating in the important regional consultation process, such as the Colombo process, organized by IOM. We consider this an important development that signifies growing interests and willingness in both sets of countries to apply coordinated and concerted approach in regularizing the process of migrant workers.

Nepal appreciates the initiatives taken by the Government of the United Arab Emirates to organize the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Consultation of the Colombo Process in Abu Dhabi next month and eagerly looks forward to participating in the meeting. We are confident that this meet will be an occasion to exchange experiences, identify best practices to be followed and obstacles to be removed, explore innovative approaches and create grounds for further enhancing cooperation between the host and home countries in the management of migrant workers.

In conclusion, we recall the conclusion of a comprehensive Cooperation Agreement between Nepal and the IOM, and express confidence that the agreement will facilitate to widen the scope of IOM's cooperation in the areas of capacity building and technical cooperation in migration issues, migration and health, international migration law and migration assistance to refugees, among others.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson.