

**Statement by Mrs. Aslıgül Ügdül
Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the UN
at the IOM Council Meeting
on 29 November 2007**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Council. I am confident that under your wise guidance substantive progress will be achieved during this session. I also want to welcome Burundi and Vietnam who joined the IOM as new members. Let me congratulate as well the three NGOs, Africa Recruit, Refugee Education Trust and Femmes Africa Solidarite who are admitted as observers.

Mr. Chairman,

We have adopted with consensus, the IOM Strategy paper at the last Council meeting in June. This document constitutes a road map which identifies our priorities. Today I am pleased to hear the information given by the Director General on the progress made with regard to its implementation.

We also welcome the active role played by the IOM within the Global Migration Group. I believe the coordinated efforts within the GMG will remove unnecessary duplications and improve the efficiency of concerned organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

Migration is a very complex social phenomenon. Of all the interactions between countries, it has indeed the potential to have the most significant and lasting impact. Migration has economic, social and cultural ramifications for both the countries of origin and those of destination.

In order to enhance its benefits and diminish its negative repercussions migration needs to be managed through bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms. Having said that, I want to address one form of illegal migration, namely human trafficking, which constitutes one of the biggest challenges of today. This problem requires a multi-faceted approach by the international community. There is no simple solution and the close international cooperation is indispensable.

Turkey as a transit country is actively engaged in the cooperation mechanism for migration management and the prevention of human trafficking. Last month, a conference on “Trafficking in Human Beings in the Black Sea Region” was hosted in Istanbul. It was organized by UNODC and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization. The senior officials of the Budapest Group within Black Sea Organization will meet on 12-13 December in Trabzon to discuss various aspects of cooperation among countries on the fight against human trafficking.

Furthermore, Turkey has published a national report on its activities in combating human trafficking. The report includes administrative and legal measures that my country has taken as well as statistical data for 2006. The English version of the report can be reached through the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Chairman,

On international cooperation related to migration we value the efforts within the Global Forum on Migration and Development. We look forward to its second meeting which will be held in Manila. We believe the GFMD sets a platform where the States could take up the migration issue with an approach based on a perspective of interdependency and cooperation. IOM could do its part in encouraging the states to join in this platform.

Let me conclude by reiterating our commitment to cooperate closely with concerned states and IOM and other international organizations on migration related issues.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.