

Mr. Chairman
Distinguished Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me start by joining previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to you for your able stewardship of the Council.

I would like once again to congratulate the Director General William Lacy Swing on his election and welcome his comprehensive statement which clearly identifies the challenges that international community and IOM are facing on a daily basis and IOM's responses to address those challenges.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Intergovernmental Authority on Development on their admission to the Organization as observers that adds to IOM's international recognition and success.

Mr. Chairman,

Contrary to some expectations, migration challenges have a tendency to rapidly grow. Of particular concern is climate change which continues to cause massive migration influx and brings new human calamities. The racist and xenophobic attitude against migrants is another increasing challenge. Public perception of migrants who sometimes are viewed as a threat to national security is equally alarming. We expect IOM to work actively with concerned countries to overcome these concerns. Mixed migration flows represent one of the important aspects requiring thoughtful consideration; struggle against illegal migration should not undermine the protection of refugee institution.

This year is marked by serious debates on migration throughout the world. Our understanding is that it is impossible to solve migration related challenges by only building big castles between rich and poor countries. Human rights of migrants should be protected in all conditions and human rights based approach should guide the policymakers and decision-makers. We share the concerns of countries of origin who are concerned of recent regional initiatives and refer to historical reciprocity. At the same time, we also understand the feelings of countries of destination; their capacities are not limitless and poorly-

managed or unchecked migration can totally destroy their rather well-functioning social system. Therefore, genuine and sincere partnership between countries of origin, transit and destination at all levels is crucial to better manage migratory flows. We highlight especially the role of countries of origin. It is not receiving countries and IOM, but rather countries of origin that should address the root causes of migration. Mainstreaming migration into national development strategies should be among the priority areas of relevant governments.

We observe a special emphasis that is given to migration and development. The important question is emerging: how we can ensure and create better condition so that migrants send not only money to their countries in the form of remittances, but also invest in the economy?! We are of the view that the role of Diaspora should be further explored and used for the benefits of all.

IOM should adapt to the realities of the constantly changing world. It is in this context that the Republic of Azerbaijan supports the Director General's vision of IOM-member states-driven organization. We welcome the recent consultations on zero real growth, zero nominal growth and on discretionary income in this regard. More transparent IOM is a stronger IOM. And only more robust IOM is able to meet contemporary challenges in an efficient manner and live up expectations of millions beneficiaries.

As the Director General indicated in his statement of 4 November 2008, the broader concept of reform of the UN also covers IOM, and strong relationship between IOM and UN is developing. IOM brings its assistance to the IDPs-victims of natural-made disasters as a leading agency for the camp management and coordination within the cluster approach.

Delocalization is gaining further ground. Different sources demonstrate that newly established Administrative centers in Manila and Panama allow IOM to save financial resources, lower location costs and to increase its capacities.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me now briefly touch upon the Republic of Azerbaijan. Economic development of my country during the last years makes it more attractive for migrants from other countries. Azerbaijan is becoming the country of destination. We must be ready to effectively address all challenges and to avoid

any negative impacts. Therefore, the Government of Azerbaijan is continuing its efforts to further strengthen migration management and I am glad to say that IOM is our main reliable partner in this field. Establishment of the State Migration Service in 2007 and its openness to learn from existing international expertise in defining its operational policies already give concrete results. Technical and consultative support by IOM to the SMS would be most welcomed from our side.

The discussion on the unified national migratory legislation and the strategy on readmission of the Republic of Azerbaijan are underway. New Plan of Action to combat trafficking in human beings is expected to be adopted in the near future. Azerbaijan strengthens in this context its cooperation with the European Union (EU) within the New Neighborhood Policy; there are specific provisions on migration and trafficking in human beings in the Plan of Action signed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and EU.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, allow me reiterate continued willingness of the Government of Azerbaijan to further strengthen our interaction and cooperation with the IOM and to wish a successful outcome to current deliberations.

I thank you.