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Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Hamid BAEIDINEJAD
Ambassador, Charge d'Affaires a.i.
of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

before

***“The 98th Session of the International Organization
of Migration Council”***

Geneva, 23-26 November 2009

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

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H.E. Mr. Hamid BAEIDINEJAD

Ambassador, Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the

Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva at the 96th IOM Council

(Geneva, 23-26 November 2009)

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you Mr. Chairman and members of the Bureau on their election. My congratulations also goes to Ambassador Laura Thompson, on her election as the IOM Deputy Director General. We wish her success in contributing to realization of the Organization's objectives. I would also like to express my appreciations to the IOM and in particular to its Director General, Ambassador Swing, for his thoughtful stewardship of the Organization and for the new ideas he has been trying to implement within the IOM.

The International Organization for Migration, as a progressive body, plays a constructive and sensitive role in promoting management and integration of migration policies. This has largely contributed to introduction of strategies and policies among its member states at bilateral, regional or international levels. The Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to support the valuable initiatives introduced by IOM. The Organization has already proved its capacity to play a leading role in mainstreaming efforts and initiatives addressing migration.

In recent years, the issue of migration has been standing high on the agenda of international dialogues, thus requiring serious thought and adoption of decisions by all governments and policy-makers, regardless of the nature of their interferences or interests in the management of the movements of natural persons. We believe that an effective international migration management and monitoring could be achieved by a comprehensive and coherent approach to the phenomenon of migration through dialogue and cooperation at all levels.

We have been witnessing that economic growth narrows differences and reduces the motivation for migration. In Asia it has been experienced that such a factor has transformed a country from an emigration to a net immigration area through creating jobs, higher wages and hope for further improvement. Therefore, development can turn previous emigration countries into immigration destinations; as it was mentioned by a number of previous speakers. Undoubtedly, facts-based approaches and policies and sustainable development may reduce the differences which generally motivate migration. Nevertheless, the existing reality of differences, particularly in economic terms, together with the ongoing economic recession, prompts millions of people to cross

borders in search of opportunities and brighter future.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a country of origin, transit and destination for migration, and as a country neighbouring the regions which have produced large scale and protracted displacement, over more than the past three decades, has constantly been confronted with mixed irregular and illegal population flow, has been experiencing challenges in the field of migration management; and therefore, it was seriously required to use the experience and abilities of all policy makers, academics and other stakeholders to the extent possible. To that end, we have been able to address multi-faceted dimensions of migration through cooperation between the Iranian government and IOM, which we consider as an outstanding achievement which still demands further assistance from the IOM.

The Organization has organized different workshops in Iran which have been attended by a large number of experts and stakeholders.

We welcome the present international dialogue on migration which started in New York and its following meetings in Brussels, Manila and the Athens. Undoubtedly, our discussions on 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, particularly in the context of the current economic recession and the issue of discrimination and exclusion of migrants, and establishment of a balanced relationship between the rights and commitment of states and migrants.

In conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity to express appreciations to the Government of Greece for hosting the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in October this year which was a demonstration of the genuine will of countries and policy makers for addressing migration phenomenon and its relation with development. We are all aware that governments and organizations have been trying to reduce differences which prompt migration by accelerating growth in sending countries, thus, tackling with the root causes of migration. We also note that the efforts over the past decades have demonstrated that reducing the inequalities which promote migration is a complex task that could not be realized in a short period of time. But we live with the hope that through the enormous efforts of governments and all stakeholders we can achieve our objectives.

Thank you.
