

**STATEMENT BY THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION
BEFORE THE 88TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
Geneva, 2 December 2004**

Meeting 462
Date 02.12.04
Time _____
Tape No. _____

Mr Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

The Government of Indonesia would like to express its sincere appreciation to IOM for its cooperation in assisting Indonesia to develop policies and programmes to deal with the problems of migration and trafficking. Furthermore, my government is pleased that IOM continues its support to the follow-up of the Bali Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes.

Although the issue of trafficking and migrants today affects all regions of the world, it is a fact that the problem is especially acute and difficult to address in the Asia-Pacific region. The volume of migrants, and hence of trafficking, in the Region is probably the highest in the world, not just within the region but between it and other regions as well. It is a region where both the richest and poorest countries are represented, and which also comprises the greatest variety of religious, cultural and geographical configurations. Therefore, cooperation at all levels should be stepped up and political commitment hardened, while IOM could play an important role in advocating governments to work together.

My delegation welcomes the result of the Second Labour Migration Ministerial Consultations for Countries of Origin in Asia, held in Manila in September 2004. Since Indonesia is a labour supplying country, this kind of forum is very important for my government, enabling it to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices on labour migration policies and practices. More than that, it could be considered as a basis for further dialogue in managing worker migration between supplying and receiving countries in the region, as and when all parties feel comfortable and ready to move forward. This will obviously take time to achieve, but somehow we should make a start in any areas where it is possible to do so. Indonesia has the honour to be hosting the next consultation meeting in 2005 and we look forward to working with IOM on the preparation of this event.

The Government of Indonesia has recently signed the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, on the occasion of the UN General Assembly this year. Furthermore, we have just enacted a national law on migrant workers. Through this and other legislation, the government continues its efforts to strengthen the protection of the rights of Indonesian migrant workers and to promote their welfare. The new government has put this issue high on the national agenda and in the development programs for the 2004-2009 period, particularly the agenda and programs relating to the economy and social welfare.

Mr Chairman,

Over these past two days devoted to discussions involving many important speakers, ministers and experts, my delegation has noted the importance of addressing the issue of migration in a concerted manner and through integrated actions because of the complexity of this issue and of its multidimensional implications, such as protection and financial services for instance.

My delegation also views that reducing the complexity of migration issues can be done through joint actions to create a conducive social environment for the migrants and their new community. In this regard we believe that all relevant stake holders particularly community leaders and media should play an active role in encouraging open and interactive dialogue with migrants. Such dialogue and discussion, if it is done, will in the end be favourable towards peace and social harmony among different cultures.

On the issue of migrants and health, we are of the view that both issues are very relevant and closely intertwined, especially in view of the growing intensity of people's mobility, particularly in their quest for work. We welcome IOM's initiative to organize a seminar on health and migration and its decision to establish a platform for dialogue on strategic policy solutions and cooperative management. We see every advantage in emulating this initiative at the regional level, especially in the Asia-Pacific Region.

In this regard, we wish that High-Level Dialogue in the United Nations General Assembly on Migrants and Development scheduled to be held in 2006 will provide more comprehensive and interactive dialogue to discuss the issue of managing international migration. We hope that the IOM will also add its valuable inputs and contributions to the efforts to advance this process.

Mr Chairman,

The increased discussions and the international mechanisms that are being put in place to deal with the various issues arising from international migration point to the evidence that making international migration a top international priority is essential. Therefore the real challenge facing international bodies such as IOM and others is how they can interact more effectively with different countries in such a way as to create similar perceptions of international migration, leading in turn to an effective and practical management of migration.

Thank you.