



*Islamic Republic of Afghanistan*

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*Agenda item 6: General Debate*

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Assad Omer**

**Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan**

**at the Ninth Session of the Council  
29 November- 2 December 2005,**

**International Organization for Migration**

**Geneva**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I would like to welcome the new Members and Observers.

It is a pleasure to see that the migration has become the focus of international attention. Yourself in your opening speech rightly referred to migration as part and parcel of policies of many countries including your own. We are of the opinion that our region as a whole needs to pay greater attention to the migration phenomenon. In this respect, we would like to see more initiatives at the level of our region. We have welcomed IOM's proposal for the regional dialogue and appreciate its close working relationship with our Permanent Mission in Geneva.

Indeed, dialogue at all levels, be it national, regional or international is useful to identify issues, to conceptualize the issues and to explore possible solutions responding to the challenges of movement of persons and sound economic cooperation for the betterment of standards of living in our dynamic region.

What is important at this juncture is that migration should be viewed as a positive factor. In other words, migration is an important variable of regional as well as international cooperation. Managing migration involves countries of origin, transit and destination. In many instances, a country can be at the same time country of origin, transit and destination.

Mr. Gervais Appave, in his synthesis of the fruitful Panel discussion, asked a pertinent question: what to do the next after these dialogues on migration? We feel that it is time to conceptualize the issues and identify policy measures and options addressing the migration at the source, transit and destination countries. In this regards, we welcome the GCIM's timely report and its recommendations. IOM as the sole international organization dealing exclusively with migration could undertake the elaboration of a set of *common approaches* for possible policy options taking into account the recognized policy space required by all involved governments. In this process the policy coherence is essential as it has been underlined during this session. In this regards, the statement by the Director General, while confirming the focus of international attention of migration noted a *convergence*, to a significant degree, in different analysis and

studies on migration and broad policy orientation they propose. This is an encouraging sign that needs to be emphasized.

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation would like to thank IOM's involvement in Afghanistan in various types of activities such as Quick Impact Project Programme, the return of internally displaced persons, programmes providing employment opportunities for vulnerable communities, rehabilitation or reconstruction of infrastructural services and the return of skilled Afghans living abroad .

We would like to see continuation and expansion of such projects and programmes as well as more interaction with the Permanent Mission in Geneva with a view to better targeted and focussed programmes executed by IOM.

At the end, I would like to congratulate the Director General, the Deputy Director-General and their colleagues for the excellent work done during the reporting period.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.