



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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**IN THE GENERAL DEBATE
90TH SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL
(29 NOVEMBER- 2 DECEMBER 2005)**

Geneva,
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Mr. Chairman,

We would like to congratulate you and members of the bureau on the elections. Considering the very substantive discussions held over the past couple of days, we are confident that this session of the Council will conclude with concrete results.

We would like to thank the Director General personally and members of his team in Geneva and in Islamabad for their exceptional dedication and tireless efforts to assist the Government of Pakistan in helping the victims of the 8 October earthquake. IOM has provided leadership for the shelter cluster that is a critical requirement in the harsh winter in the north of Pakistan. IOM's supply of shelter kits to high altitude populations has had life saving impact. We request donor support for IOM activities in reconstruction of earthquake affected regions. The experience gained by the organization in Tsunami can be built upon in Pakistan.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past two days, we have had, in the Council, an extremely rich debate on migration issues. Different aspects of the complex issue of migration have been discussed and a number of facts have been highlighted, notably:

- i. the tremendous contribution that migrants make to economic growth both in receiving and sending countries as well as to eradication of poverty in home countries;
- ii. the great potential that exists in optimizing the economic gains from migration is amply borne out by the World Bank study that estimates that an increase in migrants that would raise the work force in high income countries by a mere three percent by 2025 could increase global real income by \$ 356 billion. In this regard, GCIM's recommendation for human capital formation at the international level and the point forcefully made by the GCIM and the World Bank, that remittances are not substitutes for development, nor should these be appropriated by states as these are private money, must be taken serious note of;
- iii. the urgent need for addressing financial mechanisms regulating remittances so as to maximize the use of legal channels and to decrease service charges;
- iv. the imperative of liberalizing cross-border movement of skilled and unskilled labour, particularly in the context of the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations;
- v. the need to strengthen instruments governing the rights of migrants and devising measures for successful integration of migrants into receiving societies

We need to urgently agree on measures that would address these issues in a systematic manner. In this regard my delegation would suggest the following:

First, we should aim at developing a coherent framework on international instruments and regulations that would govern the economic, financial, human rights aspects of migration.

Secondly, we need to give serious consideration to establishing a robust institutional framework for addressing these issues. A number of options could be examined including the Inter Agency Global Migration Facility proposed by the GCIM.

Thirdly, we need to commit ourselves to moving forward in a meaningful manner on negotiations governing Mode 4 regarding cross border movement of natural persons. We agree that there can be no trade liberalization without liberalizing movement of natural persons across borders.

Fourthly, a set of guidelines should be developed for financial institutions in regard to service charges of remittances.

Fifthly, effective implementation of existing instruments governing the rights of migrants and identifying and addressing gaps where these exist.

The Council should agree that the Chairman's summary reflecting these points be conveyed to the President of the UNGA as a substantive input to the High Level Dialogue by the General Assembly on International Migration and Development to held next year.

To conclude, I would like to share briefly Pakistan's experience in migration and human trafficking related issues:

- Pakistani diasporas are being assisted in their efforts for social and economic development in Pakistan. They are involved in the health, education and income generation sectors. Their extraordinary contributions in the rescue and relief phase of the 8 October earthquake and continued presence in reconstruction have helped make a difference for many survivors and for the Government.
- Migration and human trafficking issues are being given high priority in Pakistan. We are making conscious efforts for coherence in policy formulation and implementation. Regular consultations, at all levels, are held between relevant Ministries and agencies.
- A comprehensive law on the "Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance" in operation since 2002, stipulates rigorous punishments for perpetrators of human trafficking as well as reparations for victims.

We appreciate IOM's assistance through technical cooperation projects on migration issues and counter-trafficking. In view of the complex nature of the issue, we believe that international cooperation, including through programmes aimed at generating employment opportunities for vulnerable areas and populations, is critical to grappling with the problem of human trafficking.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.