



*Islamic Republic of Afghanistan*

**Statement by Mr. Khalil Nasri**

**First Secretary**

**Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

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## **Check against Delivery**

Madam Chairperson,

We congratulate you upon your election as the Chair of the Council for the upcoming year. We also extend our congratulations to the other members of the Bureau for their election. We thank the Director General and the Deputy Director General for their statements which shed light on the achievements and challenges for the IOM. We also express our appreciation to H.E. Massoud Khan for having successfully presided over the Council for the past year.

Our delegation welcomes the newly admitted members, Nepal and Montenegro, and Qatar Charity as observer. IOM's growing membership is a reflection of the value it offers and the dynamism with which it handles issues relating to migration.

During the course of this year once again we have seen IOM's flexibility and adaptability in action. It has provided valuable core humanitarian and post conflict support as well as technical assistance and capacity building to many countries including ours. In many areas, my country has been a beneficiary of IOM activities with the assistance of our friends in the international community. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the IOM and to our friends for supporting IOM initiatives in Afghanistan, and would like to see these activities continue.

Our delegation is very much interested in the creation of the International Migrant Remittances Observatory for LDC's and believes it could play an important role in realizing the benefits of remittances for the development of countries of origin.

Related to this we would like to see the dialogue on the role of the diasporas in the development of their countries of origin continue. We believe however, that it would be much more valuable if case specific forums could be arranged in conjunction with interested members.

This year we witnessed important events and decisions being taken internally within the IOM and within the United Nations System. Internally we saw a realization for rationalization of the administrative structures of the IOM.

Internationally, the nexus between migration and development was brought to the fore at the High Level Dialogue in the United Nations General Assembly. This issue will continue to be examined at the highest levels in the international arena, namely the forthcoming Global Forum in Belgium. However we must be mindful to ensure that the debate is action and result orientated in order to add value. IOM's activities have played a major role in shaping this international discourse and we would like to see it continue with the same vigor.

Migration can be a positive aspect of globalization so long as its root causes are properly addressed and appropriate policies are adopted by both sending and receiving countries. It is concerning that despite its growing magnitude migration is not yet fully integrated into development policy.

Cohesive and integrated policies for dealing with migration at the national, regional and international levels are of utmost importance. Equally important is the cooperation and coordination between the different

UN Agencies dealing with migratory issues and the IOM. To this end, we believe the establishment of the GMG is a positive move and are hopeful that it will play a constructive role.

We are all aware of the ongoing process of reform within the United Nations System. Once this is complete, IOM and its members will be in a position to review the relationship between it and the United Nations, so as to better address the issue of migration.

Madam chairperson,

It seems that the IOM's existing structures are sometimes overstretched by the demands of an increasingly complex world. In order to stay focused and able to implement projects, IOM needs an internal review. The consultations on the Strategy are a good basis for members to shape the future direction of the IOM. Amongst other issues, the strategy needs to resolve the tension between Zero Nominal Growth and the ever expanding activity base of the organization in response to demands from an increasing membership. It may be that IOM will have to focus on ensuring quality implementation of finite projects. At any rate, we are of the view that a decision should be made on all three components of the paper by the deadline proposed, so as to enable the IOM to adapt its work accordingly.

I thank you Madam Chairperson.