

**Remarks by Ambassador Elchin Amirbayov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the 92^d session of the Council
of the International Organization for Migration
Geneva, 30 November 2006**

I'll start by joining previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to Ambassador Khan of Pakistan and the outgoing members of the Bureau for their able stewardship of the Council as well as by congratulating you, Madame Chair, and new members of the Bureau upon your election. I wish you every success in fulfilling the tasks before you.

Our congratulations also go to the Kingdom of Nepal and Republic of Montenegro as well as Qatar Charity on their admission to the Organization as members and an observer respectively.

Madame Chair,

We welcome the current topic of the International Dialogue for Migration that is indeed a logical continuation of the last year's thought-provoking discussions we had on policy coherence in migration management. The global scope and the multidimensional nature of international migration highlight a need to address it through coherent and collaborative approaches involving all stakeholders. Partnerships between stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels are crucial for the development of effective migration management.

While migration policy is mainly prerogative of sovereign states, nevertheless each aspect of migration concerns stakeholders in addition to governments. Policy coherence also depends on the timely identification and active engagement of the private business community, civil society, NGOs, migrants associations at all levels. Particularly, civil society and private sector have significant role in maximizing benefits of the international migration and minimizing its adverse consequences.

We warmly welcome the creation of the Business Advisory Board by IOM, an endeavor that in our opinion provides the international community with unique opportunity to identify and exchange ideas on issues relating to migration and business and developing practical solutions.

Role of the business community is particularly relevant to the various aspects of migration/development nexus. We fully share a view that partnership between governments and the business community can contribute to defining shortages and surpluses in labor markets and elaborating appropriate strategies to better plan and match labor supply and demand. There is also role for the private sector in mitigating some of the more adverse effects of the brain drain and creating transparent environment for transfer of remittances. It can be useful for increased investments to the human resource development, in particular in the field of health and education.

The private sector plays not only a critical role in the economics of migration but it also can play important role in the protection of the human rights of migrants.

It is difficult to imagine the modern society without its civil society component with its contribution to the various sectors, including migration. Partnership with civil society can be extremely useful, to name just few, in addressing specific challenges such as the prevalent tendencies of intolerance, racism and discrimination towards migrants, protecting the human rights of migrants, facilitating the successful integration of migrants or providing both governments and migrants themselves with the migration realities.

Governments have a central role in facilitating the development and implementation of many of these partnerships. But it is our conviction that they can't yield desired effect unless coherence is in place first and foremost within governments itself.

Madame Chair,

We acknowledge a significant role IOM plays in migration management both at national level through its technical, consultative and other services to states and international one playing as a forum for dialogue, cooperation and partnership on migratory questions between various stakeholders. The growing number of the IOM membership each year represents a clear recognition of IOM's above-mentioned role and place in the world.

As for the current deliberations on the IOM-UN institutional relationship, Azerbaijan believes that cost and benefits of this matter should be a subject for further deliberations among member states. Generally speaking, we would prefer IOM with its current qualities of flexibility, independence, efficiency and responsiveness and the central role in providing policy advice and services to the international community on migration issues.

At the same time, given the cross-cutting nature of the contemporary migration many UN agencies are also concerned with different aspects of migration. In practical terms, the increased operational collaboration has evolved over the past decade between IOM and a broadening range of UN entities. In such situation, IOM could further improve the current status quo with the United Nations that in turn would contribute to better inter-agency cooperation and coordination.

Azerbaijan stands ready to be flexible on this matter and join eventual consensus among the member states.

Madame Chair,

Over the past years, migration/development nexus has received growing prominence in migration discussions culminating with UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September this year which demonstrated the commitment between states, international actors, business community and civil

society to examine the relationship and synergies between international migration and development and endorsed the fact that international migration could be a positive force for development both in countries of origin and destination. Azerbaijan looks forward to the follow up to the outcomes of this event and stands ready to contribute to it in a constructive spirit.

Madame Chair,

In conclusion, let me stress that this year has been full of dynamics in the important interaction between Azerbaijan and IOM. The visit of the Director General to Azerbaijan last June provided for an excellent opportunity to review the ongoing involvement of IOM in Azerbaijan and undoubtedly gave significant boost to the action and result-oriented cooperation that we have so much enjoyed for a decade. My delegation is looking forward to further practical interaction with the IOM Administration in managing migration processes Azerbaijan currently faces.

Thank you.