

Statement by  
**H.E. Dr. Toufiq Ali**  
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations  
at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Council of  
the International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
30 November 2006, Geneva

Madam Chairperson,

Bangladesh delegation congratulates you on your election, and assures you of our full support. We also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the past Chair, Ambassador Masood Khan, for his dedicated work as Chairman during the past year.

Bangladesh warmly welcomes the Republic of Montenegro and Nepal as new members of the IOM.

Madam Chairperson,

A little over two months ago, the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development was held in New York. It stressed on the need to maximize the benefits of international migration and organized short-term movements. The Dialogue highlighted many areas where the IOM could have a direct interest. We call upon the IOM to intensify their follow-up activities, particularly in:

- helping countries to better integrate labour mobility into planning;
- supporting their internal capacities for implementing relevant programmes;
- facilitating regional and intra-regional consultations and sharing of best practices; and
- strengthening partnerships with the UN system and various stakeholders.

Madam Chairperson,

In order to better assist the States and the migrants or service providers, the IOM needs to have a clear strategy. We support the on-going exercise for developing an IOM strategy that would outline the nature of its activities, strengthen its governing bodies and lay down effective administrative and budgetary practices. The Council should build on the progress made, and complete this work soon.

Madam Chairperson,

In the interactive sessions over the last two days, the complexity and the emerging trends of global movements was brought out. Bangladesh holds that a wider approach is essential for dealing with this multifaceted issue. Newer trends like short-term labour movement should not only be recognized, but also factored more prominently into IOM's work.

There is no doubt that managed international migration and short-term labour movements bring benefits to both the sending and the receiving countries. Where there is demand, supply can meet the needs.

There are many good ideas contained in the IMD Initiative (as described in MC/INF/284). It is clear, concise, and touches upon the key issues of interest to us. Our collective effort should focus on the following issues among others:

**Movement of temporary service providers:** Bangladesh seeks a regime to facilitate the orderly movement of temporary service providers. The world needs a more inclusive, transparent and structured framework for this purpose. The immense potential in this field has been well recognized and would exceed, by several times, the benefits of trade in merchandize goods under complete liberalization. We urge the international community to undertake expeditious measures for liberalization of markets for the movement of service providers, under strict regulations that ensure cyclical movements. We look forward to the Council taking up this issue.

**Facilitation of remittance flows:** We encourage IOM to bring together Governments, the private sector and relevant stakeholders for facilitating remittances. Host countries must ensure unhindered transfer of funds to the countries of origin, with minimal transaction costs. Countries of origin of the migrants or service providers should also help them use remittances wisely and invest in productive sectors.

**Protection of migrants and temporary workers:** Efforts are needed to ensuring fair treatment, decent work, minimum wage and recognition of their status. We must protect the human rights of all migrants and temporary workers and prevent trafficking in persons.

Madam Chairperson,

We have a specific proposal for the IOM. In recent years, individuals from many countries have been caught up in emergency situations, primarily as a result of activities of traffickers. They have benefited from critical services provided by IOM. Speed is of the essence in times of emergency. We believe time has come for considering the establishment of an IOM contingency fund to assist such stranded persons. Such a fund would enhance IOM's flexibility to deal with situations as they emerge.

Before concluding, I would like to commend the IOM, particularly Director-General Brunson McKinley, for the organization's pro-active role. IOM's adaptability and creativity in solving problems remain its biggest strength. We deeply appreciate the leadership of Director-General McKinley in making IOM matter to States as well as to those in need of IOM's services.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.