

Statement by Tehmina Janjua, Deputy Permanent Representative, at the 92nd Session of IOM Council, 28 Nov – 01 Dec 2006, Geneva

Madam Chairperson,

I congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on election to the Council. Under your able guidance we will conclude our work today after four days of discussions and deliberations on various aspects of migration and development.

I would also express my appreciation for the tireless efforts of Mr. Brunson McKinley, Director General and Ms. Ndioro N'Diaye, Deputy Director General, for effectively steering the Organization and placing it at the centre of the migration discussions.

We welcome the Republic of Montenegro and Nepal as new members of the Organization.

Pakistan values its partnership with the IOM. We appreciate the active role played by the Organization in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck Pakistan in October last year. The IOM staff in Islamabad worked with great dedication to assist the Government in alleviating the sufferings of the earthquake victims. We are proud to note that a young Pakistani IOM official, Ms. Mariam Khokhar, was recognized for her professional and selfless work with earthquake affected communities, and was given the Director General's Award to Outstanding Staff, in May this year.

Madam Chairperson,

This has been an eventful year for moving the discussions forward on migration issues through the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development held in New York, on 14-15 September 2006 and for the IOM.

The High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development underscored the strong commitment of the UN, the civil society and the private sector to examine the relationship and synergies between international migration and development. There was recognition that (a) international migrants contributed to development in both developed and developing countries; (b) the root causes of international migration needed attention; and (c) exploitation and abuse of migrants in an irregular situation needed redressal. These issues require urgent attention.

We thank the Government of Belgium for its offer to host the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development next year. We look forward to a comprehensive and action oriented discussion of key issues raised at the High Level Dialogue. We endorse the direction given by the High Level Dialogue that the Forum should foster practical, evidence-based

measures to enhance the benefits of international migration and minimize its negative effects.

Madam Chairperson,

The progress made in discussions on the IOM Strategy Paper with concrete recommendations presented by Ambassador Masood Khan, yesterday, augur well for a conclusive outcome by June 2007 on all three pillars, strategy, institutional framework and budget and finance. We thank Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba of Mexico and Ambassador Mary Whelan of Ireland for their work in this context. The discussions have helped focus attention on the Member States expectations of the IOM over the next five years. IOM's comparative advantage lies in:

- Humane and orderly management of migration and secure, reliable, flexible and cost-effective services for persons who require international migration.
- Offering expert advice, research, technical cooperation and operational assistance to build national capacities and facilitate international and regional cooperation on migration matters;
- Contributing to the economic and social development of states.
- Participating in coordinated humanitarian response in the context of inter-agency arrangements in the field.
- Undertaking programs to facilitate the return and reintegration of refugees, displaced persons and migrants and assisting in combating migrant smuggling and trafficking.

We believe that conclusion on all three pillars should be adopted by the Council simultaneously. We need to set ourselves a clear deadline of June 2007 to reach agreement in this regard. We look forward to working with you in this context.

The Council also needs to focus on resolving the question of the relationship between the UN and the IOM.

Madam Chairperson,

As the expectations of the member states from the Organization grow, there is an increasing need to sharpen the focus of its activities. Pakistan remains committed to working closely with you, the Bureau and the IOM in order to make it a strong *strategically focused* Organization.

I thank you Madam Chair.

1 December 2006