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**Statement by H.E. Dr. Nanguyalai Tarzi, Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative of Afghanistan to the UN – Geneva**

**29 November 2012**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Director General,  
Excellences,  
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to begin by congratulating the Chairperson, Ambassador Hannan and the new bureau of the Council for their election. In the meantime, I would like to thank the Director-General, Ambassador Swing, the Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Thompson and their colleagues at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the excellent job that they are doing.

My delegation warmly welcomes the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as new members of IOM and the new Observer Organizations.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today Afghanistan is facing multiple socio-economic challenges which also results in mass movement of populations. In order to manage and enable a secure and efficient migration system, the Government of Afghanistan has been working with its international partners including IOM to seek durable solutions for over a decade. One of the latest initiatives undertaken in the field is the development of a Regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees designed to support voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration and assistance to host countries which was approved at the International conference in Geneva on 2 and 3 May this year. The Government of Afghanistan has developed its National Work Plan for the implementation of the Solutions Strategy which was presented in a Consultative Session on the sidelines of 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of UNHCR Executive Committee on 5 October 2012.

The assistance and efforts of the International Community and International Organizations are vital in the implementation of the Solutions Strategy. We are grateful for the pledges made in various conferences by donors. In implementing

the Solutions Strategy, the Government of Afghanistan is not only seeking to address the problems of returnees and IDPs but also strengthening its absorption capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

The IOM is one of the important partners of the Government of Afghanistan in the field of Migration. IOM has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest mission in Afghanistan and its programs are implemented in close coordination with national institutions in Afghanistan. Technical cooperation, capacity building, providing emergency relief to vulnerable families, facilitating sustainable return and reintegration to and within Afghanistan and construction of health and education facilities are the programs which are highly valuable.

We would also like to thank the IOM for carrying out the safe and dignified repatriation of approximately 50,000 undocumented Afghans from Pakistan. In addition the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations is supported in the assistance of these undocumented individuals by IOM for their reintegration in Afghanistan. We reiterate that the reintegration process should be gradual and it requires the development of basic livelihood services such as food, shelter, health, education and the creation of job opportunities.

My delegation takes note that development of programs designed for the socio-economic reintegration of returnees, IDPs and vulnerable Afghans should be enhanced as they will contribute greatly to the implementation of the Solutions Strategy and its successful outcome.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation welcomes the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework and takes note that this Framework will further strengthen efforts to assist and protect crisis-affected populations. The IOM Development Fund is another excellent initiative which ultimately supports developing Member States in addressing their migration challenges.

Mr. Chairperson, I conclude my remarks by wishing the IOM success in all its efforts to assist and protect migrants throughout the world. I thank you.