



Statement by Ambassador Wu Haitao  
Head of the Chinese Delegation at the  
General Debate, 101<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council, IOM

November 28, 2012, Geneva

Mr. President, Director General Swing,

The Chinese delegation has carefully listened to the report of the Director General on the situation of international migration and the work of IOM. We would like to commend the efforts IOM has undertaken over the past year to advance international protection of migrants.

As a consequence of economic and financial crises, coupled with regional turmoil and frequent natural disasters, we are witnessing a rise in “forced migration”, including search for asylum and displacement. Migration is a global issue which calls for strengthened international cooperation as no country can come to grip with it single-handedly.

Firstly, we should seek to narrow the gaps between the rich and the poor among countries and regions and work for common

development. All countries should include migration into their strategic plans for economic and social development with a view to seeking an integrated solution. Developed countries should help developing countries in their efforts to achieve economic growth and raise the living standards and the quality of their populations in their pursuit for sustainable development.

Secondly, legal channels for migration should remain open and illegal ones should be shut. A proper balance should be struck between encouraging orderly migratory movements and fighting illegal ones. To that end, on the one hand we need to expand the channels for legitimate movements and improve the migration regime. On the other hand, we should suppress human trafficking and migrants smuggling.

Thirdly, the legitimate rights and interests of migrants should be protected and their integration should be facilitated. The anti-immigrant trend that we now see in some countries is alarming for concern. All countries must protect migrants' rights and interests and fight against xenophobia and intolerance as a means to encourage integration.

Mr. President,

As China builds increasingly close ties with other countries, it is gradually turning into a destination as well as a source country for migrants. In 2011, we registered more than 400 million entries and departures across the border, of which 54.12 million were foreigners. Along with increased opportunities for exchanges

between China and the rest of the world, such movements have also brought new challenges including illegal entry, illegal residence and illegal employment. My Government attaches great importance to migration management. Last June, the updated Law on the Control of Entry and Exit of Aliens was adopted to better regulate border management. At the same time, China is smoothly implementing with IOM the second phase of a capacity building project for migration management. Last August, Director General Swing made a fruitful visit to China including the Hong Kong SAR. The two sides reached wide-ranging agreement on deepening ties of cooperation.

China is ready to work more closely with IOM as part of the global efforts to facilitate orderly global movements of the people for the benefit of migrants.

Thank you, Mr. President.