

Statement of the Head of Delegation of Turkmenistan

General Debate

103rd session of the Council

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Dear Director General!

Dear ladies and gentlemen!

Dear participants!

Let me express my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to inform the participants of the current Session with a positive experience of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the International Organization for Migration.

As it is well known, foreign and domestic policy of Turkmenistan led by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov is aimed at establishing of humane, equitable and creative order in the world. One of the purposes of its policy is to develop cooperation with the competent international organizations, among them the International Organization for Migration – our long term partner.

Office of the Organization has been opened in Ashgabat - the capital of Turkmenistan - in 1997. During this period of close cooperation between IOM with the Government of Turkmenistan more than 20 projects aimed at solving specific migration issues have been implemented.

Thus, as the result of this joint work, in accordance with the Presidential Decrees:

- In 2005, 10 158 (ten thousand one hundred fifty-eight) refugees were granted citizenship of Turkmenistan, 3029 (three thousand twenty-nine) stateless persons were granted citizenship of Turkmenistan;

- In 2011, 3318 (three thousand three hundred eighteen) stateless persons were granted Turkmen citizenship.

At the same time, Turkmenistan has joined the main conventions on statelessness: UN Convention "On the Status of Stateless Persons" – in 2011 and the UN Convention "On the Reduction of Statelessness " - in 2012.

As continuation of policy of reducing statelessness in the country, on October 25, 2013 by the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan, 609 (six hundred nine) stateless persons were granted Turkmen citizenship.

This unprecedented humanitarian act has been a clear confirmation of the implementation by Turkmenistan of its priority positions outlined during the 68th session of the UN General Assembly, where it was announced the continuation of active promotion of practical implementation of measures aimed at the protection of refugees and stateless persons.

Currently, it is continuing the work on the systematization of stateless persons with a view to their subsequent voluntary naturalization.

Successful cooperation with IOM is also expressed by an International Conference on "Sharing best practices between Eastern and Western Europe, and Central Asia for the development and implementation of the National Work Plan to combat trafficking in person" organized by the Government of Turkmenistan in collaboration with the IOM Office in Ashgabat where representatives of several UN system organizations such as - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) , the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and other international experts have participated.

The International Conference, being a landmark event, helped to strengthen efforts of Turkmenistan and the relevant international organizations on issues aimed at addressing the problem of trafficking, as well as the exchange of experiences and best practices in the development and implementation of national action plans.

Turkmenistan is actively involved in a number of other international, regional and subregional forums, organized with the support of IOM and dedicated to cooperation in the migration issues.

In this context it should be also noted that in the framework of the joint project with IOM a high-level meeting on the reduction of statelessness will be held in 2014 in Ashgabat.

Also other priority areas of cooperation with IOM have been identified. They are as follows:

- Migration and Health: the Government of Turkmenistan jointly with IOM, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF will hold international events on the health of migrants, especially women, children, the disabled and the elderly people;

- Migration and emergency regulation: the Government of Turkmenistan in collaboration with IOM and UNHCR will implement projects and programs aimed at addressing issues related to the migration of people caused by natural disasters and regional conflicts;

- Trafficking in person: the Government of Turkmenistan will continue its work with IOM on incorporation of international norms on combat human trafficking into the legislation of Turkmenistan, including promotion of advocacy of this issue.

- As well as other projects.

In conclusion, it should be noted that taking into account the positive experience of cooperation between Turkmenistan and IOM, the implementation of new planned projects will be a powerful impetus for the successful solution of all tasks, contributing to sustained development and security of the whole world.

Thank you for your attention!