

**Statement by Pakistan**  
**105<sup>th</sup> Session of IOM Council**  
**25-28 November 2014**

I thank you Chairperson

I congratulate you on your election as the chair of the IOM Council and other members of the Bureau for the forthcoming year. We are confident that under your leadership, IOM Council would be able to take further strides in its important work in the field of migration.

We welcome the Director General's comprehensive report to the IOM Council and we thank him and his entire team for their tireless efforts in carrying out the mandate.

Pakistan recognizes the vital importance of IOM's activities and the role played by it in reaching a consensus on migration issues. Let me also express our appreciation for IOM's support to Pakistan in responding to natural disaster situations and for its leading role in the UN's shelter cluster in Pakistan.

My delegation takes note of the report of the Working Group on IOM-UN relations and we will continue our participation in its important work. In this regard, we also commend the efforts of the Permanent Representative of Peru for leading the Working Group on IOM-UN Relations and his work as the outgoing chairperson of the Council. We believe that the final outcome of the exercise should be an improved status for the IOM while ensuring the unique role it has been bestowed by the Member States. We firmly believe that IOM should continue to concentrate on its area of core-competence, that is migration management, in view of the developments in recent times relating to migration.

We share the view that there is a need to change the discourse on migration from negative to positive. The contributions made by the migrants should be acknowledged while ensuring to maximize their potential for their families, host communities and the countries of origin. We support IOM's active role in promoting human rights of migrants.

Pakistan commends the efforts of IOM in two critically important areas of migration management; lowering the cost of remittances and reducing the recruitment costs. Lowering the cost of remittances would enhance the benefits for migrants and their families, who most often utilize it for meeting their basic needs including health and education. We encourage IOM to take further steps in this regard.

We expect IOM to play a more active role to support the Colombo Process and help all its members in supporting their expatriate communities. In this regard we encourage IOM to carry out a study focusing on contributions and existing and future challenges to migrants originating from our region.

Before concluding, let me congratulate and welcome Samoa as the newest member of IOM.

I thank you.