

Remarks by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the 88th session of the Council of
the International Organization for Migration

Geneva, 30 November - 3 December 2004

461
Date 2.12.04
Time 17:03
Page No. _____

Thank you very much,
Mr. Chairman,

I'll start by joining previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to Ambassador Karklins and the outgoing members of the Bureau for their able stewardship of the Council as well as by congratulating ^{you and other} new members of the Bureau upon their ^{year} election and to wish ~~them~~ every success in fulfilling their tasks.

all deserved

Our congratulations also go to Estonia³, Brazil⁴, Turkey¹ and ISESCO⁵ on their admission to the Organization as members and an observer respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

The world migration landscape has undergone sweeping changes in the past decade. The enduring impact of globalization has brought significant consequences for the phenomenon of migration. The latest developments in the world have obliged states to consider migration from the national security point of view, which in turn led to changes in approaches to the migration management.

Transitional period in economy and related problems, continuing effect of grave consequences of the ongoing armed conflict with Armenia, geographical location of Azerbaijan as well as existing instability in some neighboring countries make migration processes in Azerbaijan very dynamic. Given this fact, Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the migration management. Efficient migration management is considered by Azerbaijan in the light of two approaches. The first approach relates to the cooperation with international organizations on strengthening/capacity building, especially in the field of technical assistance; the second one is based on addressing root causes of this phenomenon, in particular its negative forms as illegal migration and trafficking in human beings.

national

Much has been done in the migration management in the country. The Government of Azerbaijan has recently approved the State Migration Management Policy Concept aimed at strengthening national security through purposeful migration management. It will also contribute to sustainable social, economic and demographic development and effective use of labour resources.

Azerbaijan highly appreciates the IOM activity in the country which has been successfully implementing very useful for Azerbaijan projects in the fields of capacity building, border management, prevention and combating illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, regulation of labor migration.

Irregular migration continues to pose major challenges for States in all parts of the world. Interstate cooperation to prevent and combat irregular migration is evident and crucial. As a country located in the interface between Europe and Asia we stress the importance to address this phenomenon at the peripheries of the European continent. In our strong opinion, efficiency of tackling irregular migration in Europe depends on efficiency of addressing it at its peripheries. In this regard, we look forward to cooperation with the IOM and other interested actors in strengthening the border management in the southern borders of Azerbaijan through technical ~~cooperation~~ ^{assistance}.

Socio-economic problems currently experienced by developing countries have evoked the outflow of population using various illegal channels for a better life in developed world. Having repatriated to their countries of origin those migrants make another attempts to leave the country for abroad due to the lack of economic opportunities in countries of origin. As a result, efforts to prevent the illegal migration yield no result. Therefore, we invite the IOM and other actors in partnership with national governments to provide reintegration of returned migrants through the implementation of development projects. Creation of opportunities for temporary labour migration is also one of pre-requisites for prevention of irregular migration. We welcome the fact that the first intersessional workshop in 2005 will be held on the topic of Migration and Development.

Briefly touching the trafficking in human beings in the country, it should be mentioned that although it is not regarded as a national calamity, Azerbaijan fully realizes potential dangers of trafficking for the nation's future and exerts all efforts to efficiently address this issue at the current stage. The National Plan of Action of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings ^{has been} recently approved by the President of Azerbaijan ~~provides for improvement of national legislation, creation of the post of national coordinator and specialized police, coordination of activity in combating in human beings, legal protection, physiological rehabilitation of and safe accommodation for victims of trafficking~~. We count on IOM's expertise and its technical and consultative assistance and where possible financial support in implementation of the Plan of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

Migration has contributed and continues to contribute to important goals such as economic development, social dynamism, cultural richness and diversity. But these goals can be achieved only when migration is properly managed. No state has adequate instruments and capacities to address migration problems by itself due to the cross ^{country} ~~border~~ and even cross-regional ~~character~~ of migration. International cooperation is of crucial importance and in such cooperation we clearly recognize the important role of the International Organization for Migration. We would like to express the interest of Azerbaijan in continuation and broadening of the cooperation with the IOM.

On a more general note, there is a need for better coordination to cover sufficiently all necessary areas and avoid possible duplication. It is also crucial to use financial resources in an effective way and to clarify responsibilities of ^{all the} relevant actors.

Last but not least. Protection of the rights of migrants is an essential international value. We firmly believe that States have an obligation to respect the human rights of migrants at all stages by preventing prevalent today tendencies of xenophobia, racism, discrimination and other forms of intolerance in host societies. At the same time, migrants should also abide by the laws of the host countries by rejecting all forms of intolerance.

We reiterate again that Azerbaijan is keen to continue contributing to efforts in managing migration at national, regional and global levels.

In conclusion, ^{Mr chairman,} we would like to emphasize that it is impossible to respond to changing migratory trends on an ad-hoc basis. Unidimensional approach to migration management is unlikely to solve the problem. There is a growing awareness that contemporary migration can no longer be treated as an isolated issue but must be considered as a process to be managed in a comprehensive manner.

I Thank you, Mr. chairman.