

## Statement of Bangladesh delegation at the 106<sup>th</sup> IOM Council meeting

### General Debate

November 2015

Thank you Mr. Chair. *He congratulate you as the /Chair of the Council*

Let me begin by welcoming Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Republic of Kiribati, The state of Eritrea and Saint Lucia, as new members of IOM. The inclusion of these countries goes a long way towards universalization of the IOM's membership. It goes also to show the growing recognition of the relevance and importance of this organization. Bangladesh, thus, reiterates its appreciation for Organization headed by the Director General Ambassador Swing.

I would like to commend Ambassador Swing for his wide ranging report to the Council drawing attention on important topical issues. We endorse his conclusion that this has, indeed been the year of migrants. We do not view human mobility as a challenge in itself, be it motivated by economic aspirations or forced in the wake of climate change or disaster. The challenge lies in how we respond to it, how we respond to the need of the people on the move and how we respond to the protection of human rights of migrants remains as a challenge. In this regard, we commend the aspiration of IOM, as highlighted by the DG to develop robust, safe, legal and orderly channels for planned and needed temporary and permanent migration, at all skill levels, for family unification, student and humanitarian entry and more.

We also believe that IOM can play an active role in the implementation of the related areas in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, the effectiveness of such roles is dependent on the institutional framework under which IOM would or should operate.

Mr. Chair,

we are concerned at the continued discrimination against migrants in many areas of the world. Migrant workers, even in an irregular situation, contribute to the economy and development of both the sending and receiving states. Hence, there should be strengthened efforts to ensure the enjoyment of all rights by migrants and their safety. It is regrettable that migrant workers in recent times are facing prejudice, marginalization and intolerance. Racism, xenophobia and intolerance are particular

problems. Migrants are suffering from multiple forms of discrimination and ill treatment in many destination countries often as a result of xenophobic and racial discrimination and intolerance. We are alarmed at the rising incidents of intolerance towards migrants, in particular migrants from Asia and Africa in many parts of Europe. It is the duty of host governments to ensure the rights and security of migrants. We expect heightened attention of IOM in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh highly appreciates the DG for sharing with the members the key policy issues of the organization, in particular the Gender policy. This is an exhibition of a high standard of transparency in the work of the Organization. We commend the management for taking into account a constructive approach of members to the policy and catering to the required modifications of the policy that would give it a higher level of acceptability without compromising its objectives.

Mr. Chair, we believe that an important international organization like IOM that works as a leading organization for migration need to be representative of the diverse multicultural social milieu that is an essential component in migration. In this regard, we would also like to express our concern about human resources management of Organization, and geographical representation in the staff composition. We would appreciate receiving information on the geographic representation at different levels, from P1 to D2. Representation is more important at the higher levels i.e. decision making /policy making levels. We would therefore, strongly recommend that the organization implement policy of geographical distribution in its human resource both in the field level as well as in the headquarters in order also to include cultural, religious, racial and ethnic diversity in its human resources.

I would like to end by expressing our sympathy with the migrants who are suffering under various difficulties in many parts of the world and unfortunately are being discriminated against. We also wish to express our condolences to thousands of migrants who lost their lives in their quest for ~~their~~ better lives.