

**EMBASSY & PERMANENT MISSION OF AFGHANISTAN
TO
UNOG - GENEVA**

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Statement during General Debate

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, my delegation congratulates appointment of Mr. John Quinn, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to United Nations, as the Chairperson and other Bureau Members of the IOM Council Bureau. We also congratulate the Kingdom of Tonga as the new Member to IOM family and grant of observer status to 18 organisations. As IOM celebrates 65th anniversary, I extend sincere congratulations and best wishes to the president and all staff members.

As we all know, the world is facing unprecedented challenge; and we the people of Afghanistan are one of who are also affected due to the migration crisis. We call upon IOM and donor countries to pay special attention towards Afghanistan, which is passing through a transition and need urgent support in return and reintegration of migrants. They need to be given skill sets which makes them self sufficient to earn their livelihood and contribute towards nation building.

We strongly support the SDGs target no. 10.7 related to orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration; and SDGs target 8.8 related to protection of labour rights, safe and secure working environment for all workers, including for the Afghan migrant workers, and those in precarious employments.

We urge IOM and countries of transit and destination for Afghan migrants to protect the human rights of our people who are on move and maintain the same standards of protection which are internally prescribed and given to others. It is in the interest of all to ensure that no one becomes victim of xenophobia, racism and discrimination, which escalates in another crisis and further pose challenges for providing of adequate protection to migrants.

We sincerely believe that IOM has an important role in facilitating good migration governance through promotion of whole of government approach whereby all responsible organs of the government ensures and promotes migration and mobility policies in its broader interest.

We would like IOM to use its expertise and experience in capacity building, providing policy advice and developing specific programmes which may include training tools and assessment models to enhance the capacities of Member States, particularly countries like Afghanistan, to maximize benefit from migration.

Under IOM's initiative for good migration governance and its important role in steering the drafting of Global Compact on Migration, we support humane and orderly migration with obligation for States to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of individuals within its territory and practice non-discriminatory approach to preserve safety, physical integrity and dignity of the migrants.

Afghanistan also support The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants as political will of world leaders to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility on a global scale.

Afghanistan strongly encourages member states and all stakeholders to develop partnerships relating to migration policies in-order to reduce discrimination against migrants, build partnerships and protect their rights; lower the human, social and

economic costs of migration; expand opportunities for migrants to invest their earnings more productively and share their knowledge.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson.