

Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations and Other
International Organisations in Geneva

Statement by Armenia
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Geneva, 8 December 2016

Mr. Chairman,

Let me echo the words of congratulations addressed to you and to the members of the bureau upon your election, as well as congratulate the IOM on its 65th anniversary. We also want to welcome IOM's joining the UN family as we are hopeful that the new arrangements will further strengthen the operational capacities of the organisation in addressing global migration challenges.

The importance of international mobility for sustainable development and the need to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, legal and responsible migration through planned and well-managed policies (target 10.7) is among the targets of Sustainable Development Goals. The Agenda 2030 recognizes the “positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development”, and that “international migration is a multi-dimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries.

Armenia has been consistently exploring partnership opportunities aimed at reinforcing the positive link between well-managed migration and development.

This covers a wide range of policy frameworks, including bilateral labour agreements and other institutional arrangements and we see an important role for the IOM to facilitate such initiatives.

It is our belief that better-planned policies on job mobility and demand-driven circular labour migration can significantly enhance the development potential for both sending and receiving societies and help reduce poverty and tackle inequalities on a broader scale.

Mr. Chairman,

Migration can play a pivotal role as part of the global partnership for development if a greater coordination and coherence could be ensured between private sector, Diaspora groups and organisations and governments that go beyond remittances and monetary contributions.

On the national level, we have been working closely with our development partners to strengthen our migration management capacities. A joint Mobility Partnership between Armenia and the European Union has been a framework for implementation of projects aimed at enhancing cooperation on migration issues with focus on better management of legal and labour migration, advancement of exchange programmes and initiatives in the area of vocational and higher education, promoting effective return and reintegration policy, as well as preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.

We also recognize the valuable role of other regional and specialized organizations in the field of migration management. A welcome development in the area of international cooperation in managing migration was the recent establishment of the representation of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development /ICMPD/ in Armenia, with which our Migration Service has very a good record of implementation of various programs.

Mr. Chairman,

The global displacement challenges, ongoing conflicts, also significantly affect Armenia. As a host country, Armenia provides refuge to more than 20000 persons displaced due to the conflict in Syria who have sought protection in Armenia, making our country the third largest recipient of Syrian refugees in Europe on per capita basis. They are being provided with access to civil, economic, social and cultural rights similar to those enjoyed by the citizens, and with the possibilities of facilitated naturalisation.

In Armenia, we have been working towards a more effective use of information technologies aimed at better migration data collection and addressing the needs of migrants. An online information system has been made operational since 2015 to assist migrants with any inquiries they may

have about return and reintegration processes in Armenia and the relevant programs and services they are eligible for.

Mr. Chairman,

Armenia has welcomed the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and we believe that the full implementation of the collective commitments, particularly those referring to a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility, could make a real difference for the benefit of the people on the move. We look forward towards successful process of elaborating a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Thank you.