

Statement by Mr. Toufiq Islam Shatil, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in Geneva, in the General Debate of the 107th session of the Council of the IOM on 5-8 December 2016, Geneva

Thank you Mr. Chair.

Mr. Chair, Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me commence by congratulating the Chair, Ambassador John Quinn, for assuming this important responsibility. Bangladesh welcomes the Kingdom of Tonga as the newest Member State of the IOM. This year is indeed a significant year for this organization, being the 65th anniversary as well as due to the recently established historic relations between the IOM and the United Nations system. We deeply appreciate the recent rapid growth of the IOM, and believe that Director-General Ambassador Swing's leadership role in the administration was indeed one of the main reasons of these achievements.

Mr. Chair,

We echo the expectation of many delegations in this Council session that the IOM need to play a central role in the process of finalizing the Global Compact on safe, regular and orderly migration to be adopted in the inter-governmental Conference in 2018. The decision of holding this Conference during the UN High-level Summit on Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016 was indeed a historic one. We believe that this Global Compact on migrants, along with the other Global Compact on Refugees to be finalized in parallel, would serve as effective multilateral agreements in addressing the ongoing large human movements throughout the globe and in mitigating the human sufferings related to these movements in most cases. We appreciate the role of the co-facilitators, Mexico and Switzerland, for commencing the process of shaping up the Global Compact on migrants, and hope that wide-ranging consultations would take place not only in New York but also in Geneva as well as in regional levels in an inclusive and transparent manner. We would like to underscore that this is important to ensure that the Global Compact does not merely restate existing commitments but rather makes further progress through establishing the institutional and legal conditions for implementing our major undertakings. We hope that the 2018 Conference will be a turning point, and we need to ensure that the IOM play its due role in this process.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation deeply appreciates the Annual Report of the Director-General. We concur with his observation that this is important to understand the reality of having mixed flow of refugees and migrants at the centre of most large human movements, and thus this is essential to work closely with the UNHCR in order to promote coherence and synergies for addressing mixed flows. Human rights of all individuals must be ensured, irrespective of the status. We also thank him for detailed explanation of the growth being experienced by the organization. We are of the view that in order to better coordinate with the UN system due to its new status as a related organization, and also due to the ongoing global large scale human movements, the organization must be sufficiently strengthened in terms of human resource and budget. We appreciate the decision to reconvening the Working Group on Budget Reform in this connection.

Mr. Chair,

We also thank Ambassador Swing for underscoring, in his Report, the need for further working on the global migration governance structure. We would underscore that The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is intrinsically linked to the improvement of global governance of migration. The Compact should also address the current institutional and legal shortfalls in this domain. In this connection, IOM's Migration Governance Framework would work as an important base for our works in the upcoming 9th GFMD Summit to be held in Bangladesh next week and in further works of the GFMD process in future as well as for the Global Compact on migrants. We also believe that ensuring the rights of internally and cross-border displaced population due to climate change and natural disaster should be addressed in both the Global Compacts, and for this, the Platform for Disaster Displacement need to play an important role in the process of finalizing both the Global Compacts.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, we would like to underscore that, as IOM has also always highlighted, migration clearly makes positive contribution to inclusive growth and sustainable development. This is, therefore, imperative that the IOM, with its vast expertise and new role as related organization of the UN, must be enabled to play a leading role in implementation process of the relevant targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Safe and regular migration can bring benefits for all parties concerned. While we all agree that the states' sovereignty and security concerns are to be safeguarded, rights and protection of migrants must be respected as well as people's ability to migrate for life and livelihood is needed to be preserved. We must stand strong against xenophobic and racist notions towards the migrants. Bangladesh has strong conviction that a strong and extended structure of the IOM would always be beneficial for the humanity, in one hand through its ongoing positive contribution in the process of norm setting through the Global Compact, and on the other hand, through responding to the emergency needs of millions of migrants worldwide through its vast global network. Therefore, Bangladesh remains in favor of any further strengthening of this organization.

I thank you Mr. Chair.