

Statement by H.E. Dr. Mohsen Naziri Asl,

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

in the General Debate of the 107th Session of the IOM Council

(5-8 December 2016)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the new members of the Bureau on their election, and I would also like to welcome the Kingdom of Tonga as the new member of IOM. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Director General Ambassador Swing and his team for the detailed and informative report to the Council and their efforts for promoting the role and capacity of IOM at this historical juncture. Nowadays we see migration is becoming increasingly a global issue while the growing inequality, exacerbated by under-regulated globalization has fuelled crises and conflicts with far-reaching consequences.

In such a context, we are pleased this year to see the signing and entry into force of the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations, which made IOM a related organization in the UN system. This development could strengthen the IOM's collaboration and synergies with the United Nations Agencies, especially with those having a clear mandate in response to the multiple challenges of human mobility. The Islamic Republic of Iran as a country that has been facing with such challenges as the host of a huge refugee population for near four decades, is of the view that seeking synergy among organizations is key with due respect for their distinct mandates. This could help most to successfully find ways and means for addressing human mobility and migration-related issues.

Mr. Chairman,

The other important development this year was the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants by the General Assembly in which, member states committed to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration at an intergovernmental conference to be held in 2018. In this context, my delegation welcomes the appointment of the two co-facilitators by the UNGA President and beginning of the consultations with member states for determination of modalities of the intergovernmental negotiations. The Islamic Republic of Iran, while emphasizing the intergovernmental nature of this process would like to highlight the importance of full transparency, inclusiveness and consensus building in the way forward. Such an approach is essential for achieving a global compact on migration that works for all.

Bearing in mind complexity and multi-faceted nature of migration together with the IOM's long and precious experience in dealing with different aspects of the issue, we support the Organization to play a key role in the preparatory process of global compact. We do hope this could help to promote a well-balanced and inclusive approach towards managing international migration with due regard to the diverse interests of different categories of countries and migrants in this respect.

I thank you