

**Statement at the 107th Session of the IOM Council
8 December 2016**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Excellencies
Director General of IOM
Distinguished delegates

At the outset, Mr. Chairman, let me congratulate you on your election as a Chair of the 107th IOM Council. My delegation also congratulates the Members of the Bureau on their election. We have full confidence in your leadership and would assure you of our full co-operation. We also congratulate IOM for its 65th anniversary and being the associated organization of UN.

My delegation welcomes the kingdom of Tonga as a new member, and 18 other new international organizations as observers of IOM.

Mr. Chair,

We appreciate the Director General, Ambassador William Lacy Swing, for his comprehensive report to this Council. We also express our sincere appreciation to the able leadership provided by the Director-General in serving this Organization and, for his constant efforts in constructive engagement with the representatives in Geneva, New York and the capitals.

As outlined in the Director General's report, the world has witnessed unprecedented migration flow, which has resulted in struggle to respond to the mass scale mobility and the prolonged stay of displaced persons in host countries. Now, statistics shows that 250 million are international migrants. According to report published by UNHCR about 65.3 million people were displaced at the end of 2015 due to conflict and persecution. The strong wave of demographic changes that the world has observed in rapid pace in the past few years has increased concerns regarding migrants' economic and legal status on the one hand, and their economic and cultural integration in the society and work place on the other.

Mr. Chair,

The changing demographic patterns might have different impacts on different countries. Some countries may fall short of labour force, whereas some countries would have to struggle for the creation of employment opportunities for their youths. While disasters, including those induced by climate change, as well as conflicts may become some other factors triggering migration, the question of how to make migration win-win for all would emerge. Other nagging issues such as legal status and protection of those who have been trafficked and travelled long and fatal journeys may come up.

Migration has contributed to advancement in societies. Migrant workers have been playing important role in the socio-economic development of host countries. Migration not only benefits the country of origin in terms of remittances transfer, it also enriches the host country economically, socially and culturally. So, there is a need to recognize the important role played by the economic migrants, and their contribution to the socio-economic growth and development of both the origin and destination countries. It is not always easy to quantify the contributions and role that migrants have played in development of society, but significant increment in trade and investments, including transfer of skills have been observed with the increment of migrants in various areas.

Bringing informal sector into formal economy, minimizing the cost associated with the migration and remittances transfer, and ensuring the fundamental rights of workers are issues that require integrated treatment in order to promote safe working environment for migrant workers. Though all regions have experienced increasing trends in migration, integrating migrants into the work place and societies is still a challenge that needs to be addressed.

Last year we observed various high level conferences like FFD, SDGs, DRR, COP21, and on September 19 this year we observed a high level event on migration and refugees. Guidelines and declarations of these high level summits have already been prepared, whereas indicators are being developed in some cases. By 2018 we will have developed global compact on migrants and refugees. For the first-time migration and its issues, have been inserted into mainstream development policy in the Sustainable Development Goal. SDG 10.7 has clear provision on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, and there are at least 10 targets which include references to the migration-related issues. We believe that the implementation of these declarations, and commitments towards achieving safe, orderly and humane migration, would further pave the way

for improving the situation of the migrants, and the ultimate achievement of the SDGs.

Mr Chair,

We have an excellent cooperative working relationship with the IOM in various areas. We also thank IOM for the humanitarian assistance provided to Nepal in the time of need. To conclude, we wish to reiterate the Government of Nepal's commitment to work closely with IOM in its efforts towards orderly and humane management of international migration.

I thank you all.