

Statement delivered by Ambassador Tehmina Janjua at the
106th IOM Council
(6 December 2016)

Mr. Chairperson,

I congratulate the Director General and his team on the 65th Anniversary of the International Organization for Migration.

We welcome the Kingdom of Tonga as the newest member of our Organization.

This year is significant due to the signing of the relationship agreement between IOM and UN, on 19 September 2016. The formalization of relationship with the UN has made IOM the leading UN agency with the required operational, policy and strategic expertise to spearhead issues and processes relating to migration. Yet, we expect IOM to retain its core characteristics, contained in the Council Resolution 1309.

We welcome the trust reposed by the UN membership in IOM, through the New York Declaration, to service the intergovernmental negotiations, which would lead to the adoption of Global Compact on Migration in 2018. In this regard, Pakistan attaches importance to the following:

One, we feel that the issue of labour migration and labour rights should be given due prominence in our deliberations in the coming months.

Two, the issue of growing intolerance, discrimination, and xenophobia as well as national policies strengthening such attitudes is of critical importance. We would like the Global Compact to play an important role in curtailing and reversing the spread of such tendencies.

Three, in their efforts towards creating compatibilities between the Global Compacts on Migrants and Refugees, we would urge both IOM and UNHCR, not to blur the specific legal and protection regimes governing the two distinct groups. This issue would require careful handling. The specific mandates of both organizations would be respected. In the same vein, the issue of mixed migration should be dealt with great care.

Four, in dealing with emerging migration themes, all member states, big and small, must be taken on board, without rushing the processes.

We are confident that IOM would play a central role in not only shaping the preparatory consultations on the global Compact, but would also facilitate the required thematic balance in the final outcome of the process.

Mr. Chairperson,

In advocating a central role for IOM in the process leading to the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration, we would advise both IOM and the UN Secretariat to harmoniously work together and build on each other's comparative advantage. In our opinion, the quest for the leading role could have an adverse impact on the process, as well as on the Organization, as it is in the initial phase of settling into its new role as the leading UN agency on migration.

Our advocacy for IOM's leading role in the process would have greater effect if carried out in New York, in the process of negotiating the modalities resolution. We risk prejudging the result of our negotiations if we were to take a hasty decision at this Council.

We also take note of the Director General's call to reconvene the Working Groups on Budget Reform, IOM Strategy, and on the Global Compact. We assure the Director General of our support in this regard.

Mr. Chairperson,

Pakistan notes with appreciation Director General's comprehensive presentation of the Annual Report to the Council. We particularly appreciate the useful data being collected by IOM. We would further encourage in-depth and objective analysis of the data to obtain a better picture of migration trends.

We appreciate IOM's efforts directed towards the well-being of migrants. In this regard, MigApp directly reaches out to the migrants to educate them on the do's and don'ts in deciding their journeys. The app could be further improved as a tool to assist individual decision-making towards safe, orderly and regular migration. However, at the same time, it should not become a tool to discourage migration.

In conclusion, we urge IOM to continue its commendable work for the welfare of migrants, and assure the Director General of our full support for initiatives taken by the Organization to assist member states to improve the conditions of migrants.

I thank you.