

**Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**in the General Debate of the 108<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council**

(28 November to 1 December 2017)

**Madam Chairperson,**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the new members of the Bureau on the election and welcome the new members and observers of IOM. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to IOM administration and the Director General William Swing for the detailed and informative report to the Council and also for his recent visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran which took place last week.

As IOM celebrates the first anniversary of its joining the United Nations as a related organization, it is of great significance to ensure this development has led to the reinforcement of the IOM's collaboration and synergies with the other UN agencies, especially with those having a clear mandate in development and in response to the multiple challenges of human mobility. Taking into account the complexity and multi-faceted nature of migration, we think that seeking synergy among relevant organizations and mandates is key. This approach could help most to successfully find ways and means for addressing human mobility and migration-related issues in a more comprehensive and sustainable manner.

As we are in the middle of the UNGA process leading to adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, my delegation while taking note of what has been done in the consultation phase, would like to emphasize the importance of addressing drivers and root causes of migration. The Islamic Republic of Iran as a country which has been facing large scale arrivals of mixed migratory flows and their huge economic and social impacts for near four decades would also like to underline the nexus between migration and development and importance of paying special attention to this issue in the process of developing a global compact on migration.

In such a context, it is worth remembering that SDGs target 10.7 to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration is a part of the Goal 10 which aims to reduce inequality within and among countries. Therefore in the process of development of the global compact, migration should be seen from this perspective and facilitated in a way to reduce inequalities among

Member States. The tendency of migration as a precursor for the brain drain for some countries and the brain gain for the others should be rectified and reversed. A lot should be done in order to manage migratory flows in a decent and humane manner and to let migration contribute to the development of countries of origin and destination alike. In this way, migration should be transformed from a means to escape poverty for some to an instrument to eliminate poverty for all.

It has been a reality for such a long time that some developed countries have had absolute advantage to manage and tailor the migratory flows in accordance with their needs and requirements. On the other hand, the developing countries in absence of such an advantage have not been able to play an active role vis-à-vis migratory flows and this has led to the deterioration of the situation for these countries in different occasions. This situation becomes worse when we notice that the impact of migrants on their host countries is a function of the specific circumstances and level of development of any given host country. Having said so and in a context of a global migration crisis, it is fair and appropriate to say that if in the process of developing a global compact for migration, States have to replace deterrence policies with protection initiatives, this should be promoted first and foremost by the Global North. Otherwise this process will lead to more and more gaps and inequalities among countries which is obviously in contradiction with the Sustainable Development Goals. We think the message of SDG10 should be an integral part of any global compact on migration that works for all.

Finally my country would like to support the IOM to continue playing its key role in the process of developing the global compact and hope that the Organization could help to promote a well-balanced and inclusive approach towards managing international migration in a way to reduce inequality within and among countries.

I thank you for your attention.