

**Statement by the Myanmar Delegation  
at the 108<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council  
( 30 November 2017)**

**Madam Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me begin by extending our sincere congratulations to you, Madam Chair, on your election as Chair of the Council. My delegation would like to welcome Cuba and Cook Islands as new members of the IOM and also thank the Director-General for his leadership and comprehensive annual report.

Myanmar supports the involvement of the IOM in the UN System and we congratulate the IOM for its first anniversary. IOM has greatly contributed to the cause of international migration and development. As a global leading agency for migration, we appreciate the IOM for providing technical and policy assistance in the preparatory process to develop a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration which is expected to be adopted in 2018.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank IOM for its continued assistance and cooperation extended to Myanmar particularly in the areas of migrant protection, emergency, preparedness and post crisis, labour migration and skills development, migration governance and migration health.

**Madam Chairperson,**

My Government attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of the right of migrant workers. The **Overseas Employment Supervisory Committee** was reinforced in 2016. In order to protect the rights of Myanmar migrant workers, bilateral arrangements have been introduced. Myanmar signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Republic of Korea, Japan and Thailand. A plan is also under to sign the agreement with Qatar.

We believe that the issues of people smuggling and human trafficking have adverse effect on the Global Compact on Migration. These issues are common to many countries in the world. As such, we should enhance our cooperation, strengthen our policies and ensure the effective implementation of existing legal frameworks to combat the issue of people smuggling and human trafficking. In addition, we believe that the GCM should take into consideration of the followings points:-

- 1) Providing technical assistance and enhancing capacity building of sending states for a legal, affordable and safe channels of migration;
- 2) Better cooperation and coordination among national contact points of law enforcement agencies in protection of the basic rights of migrants in vulnerable situation including domestic workers;
- 3) Government-led initiatives to advocate migrant-labor-sending and using private sectors in both sending, transit and receiving states to protect the fundamental rights of migrant workers at all-time including before departure, during transit and at their work places;
- 4) Secure and fortify the contribution of NGOs to come to assistance of migrants in the vulnerable situation, including migrant workers in both in sending, transit and receiving states.

**Madam Chairperson,**

In conclusion, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to further promote and protect the rights of migrant workers. In this regard, Myanmar will further intensify its cooperation with the relevant international organizations and continue to working closely with IOM, particularly the IOM country office in Myanmar, for the betterment of our migrant workers.

Thank you for your attention.