

Statement delivered by Ambassador Farukh Amil at the
108th IOM Council
(29 November 2017)

Madam Chairperson,

I congratulate you on your election as the chair of the IOM Council and other members of the Bureau for the forthcoming year. We are confident that under your leadership, IOM Council would be able to take further strides in its important work in the field of migration. I also congratulate Ambassador Quinn for his able leadership in steering the reform agenda.

We welcome Cuba and Cook Islands as the newest members of the Council. We would indeed benefit from their valuable contributions to the Council's work. As mentioned by the Director General yesterday, all of us have a lot to learn in disaster management and response from Cuba. We greatly value and remember Cuba's significant humanitarian support to Pakistan after the Great Earthquake of 2005.

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 gather a better picture of migration trends. We appreciate the tireless efforts of the Director General and his entire team in carrying out the mandate given by the Member States.

Pakistan recognizes the vital importance of IOM's activities and its role in forging consensus on migration issues. Let me also express our appreciation for IOM's support to Pakistan in the past, as well as in registration of the undocumented Afghans during this year.

Madam Chairperson,

IOM has completed the first year of its relationship with the UN. This has provided IOM due recognition and prominence as the UN agency on migration with required operational, policy and strategic expertise to spearhead issues and processes relating to migration. The Director General must also be appreciated for keeping the membership informed about important developments, as and when these take place.

IOM continues to effectively service the process leading to the Global Compact on Migration by providing sound technical and policy assistance. Pakistan attaches importance to the following aspects of migration, both in relation to GCM and work of IOM:

- Upholding the human rights of migrants. The issue of labour migration and labour rights should be given due prominence.
- The need to curtail and reverse growing intolerance, discrimination, and xenophobia as well as national policies strengthening such attitudes.
- Emphasis on migration and development.
- Inclusiveness and transparency in dealing with emerging migration themes.

Madam Chairperson,

As members of the Council, we are and will remain engaged in deliberations on the future of IOM. Pakistan does not support creating duplicate structures to deal with migration issues. In this regard, it is also important that IOM brings greater clarity on its role in dealing with refugees so as not to overlap with the work of UNHCR. We also consider it important that in moving forward, IOM retain its core characteristics. The adoption of GCM would bring more clarity on the future profile of our organization.

I would be remiss not to appreciate IOM's prompt deployment and scaling up of operations to provide protection and assistance to the Rohingya fleeing from persecution and violence. I personally thank Ambassador Swing for his interactions with the OIC ambassadors on the issues relating to this emergency. We look forward to IOM continuing to play its important contribution to relief, protection, assistance and return of Rohingyas in safety and dignity.

We also thank IOM for providing technical and secretariat support to the Colombo Process. This important RCP has evolved comprehensive inputs for the GCM under the guidance of Ambassador of Nepal, the Chair of Colombo Process.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, we urge IOM to carry forward its good work towards welfare of the migrants, and assist member states towards this end. I assure you of Pakistan's full cooperation.

I thank you.
