

**Statement by**  
**The Representative of**  
**the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**during**  
**the General Debate of the 109<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Mr. Chairperson;**

I would like to congratulate you on your election as the chair of IOM Council and wish you every success in leading our deliberations; we also would like to join others in congratulating Mr. Vitorino on his appointment as the Director General of IOM and express our appreciation for his important report. My delegation is looking forward to working closely with you, sir, and your team. I take this opportunity and welcome Uzbekistan as the new member of IOM.

**Mr. Chairperson;**

Iran has, for long been a transit route as well as a destination for displaced persons and migrants, including irregular migrants from neighbouring countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran has done its best to extend assistance to the refugees and migrants by providing educational, health and medical services with a view to alleviating their sufferings. The recent turmoil in the region caused by unlawful

military and other interventions, leading to massive influx of asylum seekers towards Europe, has revealed the heavy burden carried by my country during the past decades.

I would like here to highlight the following:

- 1) Migration is a symptom, we need to address the causes and reasons if we want to overcome this challenge; In our region, the main root cause of displacement and irregular migration is unresolved conflicts generated by outside military interventions.
- 2) The resurgence of extremist right-wing sentiments and xenophobic politics in developing countries have seriously undermined the ideal of human solidarity with respect to migrants;
- 3) We are deeply disturbed by inhuman treatment given to migrants at the US borders and in the ghettos created by Australia;
- 4) Unilateral coercive measures in the form of unlawful and inhuman sanctions have aggravated the situation of migrants in many parts of the world; such unilateral measures are criminal in nature since they lack any legitimacy and legality and are aimed intentionally to violate basic human rights and starve the targeted populations.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

It has always been emphasized that migration can be a driving engine for development. However, we believe that the role and impact of migration on development should be measured in light of the economic, social and cultural conditions of different societies. Although Immigration for developed economies with sustained economic growth, low rate of unemployment and relatively intact

population act as a development engine, for the developing economies with the young demographic composition and usually high rate of unemployment can hinder the economic growth and development. In other words, migration in some cases may provide opportunities and in some other cases may create new challenges.

We believe that enhancing the IOM's collaboration and synergies with the United Nations Agencies, especially with those having a clear mandate in responding to the multiple challenges of human mobility, is of great importance. This could help find ways and means to address appropriately the question of human mobility and migration-related issues.

**Mr. Chairman,**

While appreciating IOM for doing a number of projects with the assistance of donor countries, we expect IOM to address multifaceted issues, in a more concerted and coordinated manner, through defining and implementing further projects related to resettlement, voluntary return, and reintegration of the nationals of Afghanistan from the Islamic Republic of Iran to their country.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, we hope that the Organization would help promote a well-balanced and inclusive approach towards managing international migration in a way to reduce inequality within and among countries.