

Statement by H.E.Mr. Kham-Inh Khitchadeth
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR
before the General debate of the 109th session of the council of IOM
Geneva, 27-30 November 2018

(Time slot: 5 minutes)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to represent the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to attend the 109th Session of the IOM Council.

Please allow me to express my sincere congratulation to H.E. Mr. António Vitorino on your election as a new Director-General of the IOM.

I also wish to commend H.E. Mr. Juan Eduardo Eguiguren, Ambassador of Chile, outgoing Chairperson and his team for the progress made of the IOM framework during their term and also to congratulate H.E. Ambassador Negash Kibret of Ethiopia, H.E. Ambassador Morten Jespersen of Denmark, H.E. Ambassador Evan Garcia of the Philippines and Her.E. Ambassador Socorro Flores Liera of Mexico for your election as new Chairperson, Vice Chairs and Rapporteur respectively.

I am confident that with your rich experiences and great wisdom leadership, the IOM will have a great success in the new era.

At the same time, I also congratulate the Republic of Uzbekistan as a new member of IOM and the International Monetary Fund, International Emergency and Development Aid as new observers.

Mr. Chairman,

Nowadays, our world has witnessed a large scale of human mobility, and this is a natural human phenomena in the world of globalisation and integration.

Migration is diverse and complex which provides opportunities and challenges. Migrants are driving forces for social-economic development both at home and in host country. However, illegal migration is a serious threat to national security and social order, and it is also a root cause of transnational crime.

Mr. Chairman,

The Lao PDR is one of countries, which has a large numbers of inbound and outbound migrants. Therefore, the Lao Government has adopted several policies, laws and regulations, and strengthened its cooperation with neighboring countries as well as with the international organizations under bilateral and multilateral frameworks, including ASEAN framework to tackle illegal migration such as human trafficking and labour migration challenges to ensure the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and 2030 agendas for SDGs.

I am of the view that in order to solve both the illegal and movement migration and the transnational crime, the framework of the IOM in the future, among other things, should focus on solving the root cause and strengthening the capacity building to enable members to address the said problems.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the Lao Government attaches great importance of migration governance and recognizes the important role of the IOM; therefore, the Lao PDR joined the IOM in June this year.

I would like to reassure that the Government of the Lao PDR will fulfill its obligations under the IOM framework by continuing to strengthen the cooperation with the IOM, Members and International Community in the development and realization of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration to ensure the rights and dignity of migrants are protected as well as to address the issue of challenges related to illegal migration and transnational crime.

Thank you. Mr. Chairman.