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Statement by

H.E. Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Myanmar

at the 109th Session of the IOM Council

(29 November 2018)

Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me extend our sincere congratulations to you, Mr. Chair, on your election as Chair of the Council. We would like to thank the Director-General for his leadership and comprehensive report.

My delegation also would like to welcome the Republic of Uzbekistan as new member of the IOM.

Mr. Chairperson,

IOM has greatly contributed to the cause of international migration and development. We appreciate the IOM as a global leading agency for migration for providing technical and policy assistance in the preparatory process to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration-GCM. We hope that the GCM will be adopted at the upcoming Conference in Marrakech next month.

Myanmar supports the key role of IOM as the coordinator and secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration for the implementation of GCM.

Since GCM is a State-led process, the new role and working methods of the IOM should meet the expectations of Member States.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the 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 and migration governance.

Mr. Chairperson,

Myanmar government attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers. In order to protect their rights, bilateral arrangements are signed. Myanmar has signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of Korea, Japan and Thailand respectively. Overseas Employment Law (1999) is under review for amendment to be in line with the current situation of the country and international standards. Moreover, the Overseas Employment Supervisory Committee has been operational since 2011.

With the support of IOM, pre-departure orientation courses have been conducted for potential migrant workers since 2017 in order to facilitate safe and regular migration. In order to disseminate information for safe migration, 13 Migrant Resources Centers have also been established all over the country.

Mr. Chairperson,

Myanmar is working together with the IOM to strengthen many labour migration related areas including training on potential migrant workers for safe migration, remittance management, skill development and job matching in recent years.

We note that the issues of people smuggling and human trafficking have adverse effect on the Global Compact on Migration. We all need to address effectively push and pull factors to prevent human trafficking.

Myanmar recognizes the important role played by many international organizations including IOM in protecting migrant workers. The Government of Myanmar has been cooperating with the IOM country office in Myanmar and Civil Society Organizations for the repatriations of trafficked persons.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to further promote and protect the rights of migrant workers in accordance with Global Compact's objectives. In this regard, we look forward to working closely with the IOM and the relevant international organizations for the betterment of our migrant workers.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.
