

Check Against Delivery

Allocated time: 5 Minutes

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Deepak Dhital, Ambassador / Permanent Representative of
Nepal to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva at the
109th Session of the Council of the IOM**

CICG, Conference Room 2-3-4, 27-30 November 2018

Agenda Item 13: General debate

Mr. Chairperson,
Director General Mr. Antonio Vitorino,
Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Chairperson, on your election to the chair of the 109th IOM Council. I also take this opportunity to congratulate other distinguished Bureau Members on their election. My delegation assures you, Chairperson, of our fullest support and cooperation during your term in office.

My delegation expresses sincere appreciation to the outgoing chairperson **Ambassador Eguiguren** for his contribution and excellent work during his term in office.

Nepal welcomes Republic of Uzbekistan as new member and International Monetary Fund and International Emergency and Development Aid as observers of IOM.

Chairperson,

We deeply appreciate former Director General Mr. William Lacy Swing for his great leadership and lasting contribution to the IOM. We heartily welcome the new Director

General, Mr. Vitorino, who has brought in wider experience, vision and commitment to advancing the cause of global migration governance.

The Director General's report presented yesterday is comprehensive in dealing with the challenges associated with international migration and maximizing migration's benefits for sustainable and inclusive development in the interest of all countries, communities and individuals. While there is a need to consolidate the traditional roles and mandates of IOM, serious efforts are also necessary in institutional strengthening of this agency to enable it to efficiently take up additional responsibilities.

Organized and managed migration has always remained a positive force to produce global common good and shared values. As we stand just two weeks ahead of the Marrakesh Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Migration, an unprecedented opportunity for global management and governance of migration in all its aspects is unfolding. Once the guiding framework of the Global Compact is adopted, UN Member Countries can constructively engage through cooperative and collaborative efforts in the implementation of the GCM objectives and recommended actions for securing mutual benefits.

The GCM envisages greater role and responsibility for IOM as the Secretariat and coordinator of the UN Migration Network. This is a huge mandate to be entrusted to IOM, and in that context, its institutional, managerial and functional capacity has to be commensurately strengthened to meet with the increasing challenges. Member countries and regional consultative groups, which are in need of capacity development for better management of migration, would also require additional support from this body.

Important fora provided by IOM such as International Dialogue on Migration and global RCPs conference have remained hallmarks for fostering wider dialogue and cooperation for improved management of international migration. The inter-agency Meeting of the UN bodies held in mid-October has generated some momentum for the implementation of GCM, particularly in setting the scene for the functioning of UN Migration network.

Nepal believes that capacity building for the implementation of GCM at the regional and national levels should receive the priority they deserve.

Chairperson,

I take the opportunity to share with this august Council that Nepal as Chair of the Colombo Process, a regional consultative forum of 12 Asian countries of origin of migrant workers, hosted the 6th Ministerial Consultation on 16 November. Convened on the theme of '**Safe, regular and managed migration: a win-win for all**', the Colombo Process Ministerial Consultation culminated in the consensual adoption of the Kathmandu Declaration, which among others, reaffirms the Member Countries commitment to organized and managed labour migration in line with CP's established principles and practices over the years, and also in consonance with the very similar and broad approach taken by the GCM. It may be recalled that almost all of the joint recommendations provided by the Colombo Process to the GCM consultation process have been incorporated in the final GCM document. The Kathmandu meeting also discussed possible ways and means of implementing relevant GCM actions in our regional context. We deeply appreciate IOM for all the support received to organize this important meeting in Kathmandu.

Chairperson,

An estimated 4 million Nepali are out of the country on overseas employment. The remittances that they send to the families back home constitute over one quarter of the national GDP of Nepal. Therefore, ensuring safe, regular and managed migration remains our key priority. Several reform initiatives have been recently undertaken in Nepal in this direction. We are engaged in dialogue and cooperation within the region, with other RCPs and the destination countries for safeguarding the rights of migrant workers at all stages of migration through their proper orientation and empowerment, and ensuring ethical recruitment, among others.

We also take opportunity to recall Nepal's partnership with IOM for the third country resettlement of the Bhutanese refugees. We appreciate all the host countries, IOM and

UNHCR for their support and cooperation in successfully resettling over hundred thousand refugees in various nine core group of countries including the United States.

Chairperson,

Qualitative and disaggregated data availability is important for improving migration management. The World Migration Report 2018 brings some far-reaching insights into this, and further reveals the evidence that migration is a crucial tool for sustainable development. It has served as an easy reference for researchers, policy makers and mass media in the world today. IOM's research activities and major publications should continue to provide strong base for international migration governance.

In conclusion, Chair, as we celebrate the second anniversary of the recognition of IOM as a dedicated UN Agency for Migration, and as we prepare to adopt the GCM, we find ourselves at the historic turning point to ensure the rights and dignity of millions of migrants and make migration beneficial for all countries and communities.

We look forward to productive deliberations, and wish this Council session all success!

I thank you, Chairperson!