



Statement of Bangladesh in the General Debate of the 110th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM),

Geneva, 26-29 November 2019

(Time: 5 minutes, words:786)

Distinguished Chair

Director-General/Excellencies

Distinguished delegates,

Let me begin by welcoming your Ambassador Jespersen for assuming the Chair of the IOM Council. We deeply appreciate your country's proactive role in global migration discourse and firmly believe that your stewardship will lead the Council to the principled direction to promote interest of all, especially at the critical juncture of the organization. We also thank the Ambassador of Ethiopia for successful conclusion of his chairmanship. We also welcome other newly elected bureau members. Let me congratulate Lebanon as new member of IOM and the also new observer. I take this opportunity to express our deep condolences to the IOM staff members killed last month in South Sudan.

Mr. Chair,

Migration has always been integral to Bangladesh's national development priorities. With more than 8 million of our nationals working and living abroad, our foreign policy engagements remain focused on all aspects of human mobility. Bangladesh has consistently advocated for harnessing the development potentials of migration, promoting the rights of migrants, fostering meaningful international cooperation for migration governance, and eliminating unfair practices in labor migration.

We deeply appreciate Director General's detailed, insightful report outlining extensive reforms within the organization to undertake challenges ahead. We note that the Five-Year Strategic Vision builds upon the Organization's operational experiences and aspires to meet greater responsibility. It is indeed an expedient step towards transformation of the organization in order to make it fit for purpose in the context of new responsibilities it is entrusted with by the Global Compact for Migration and as the coordinator of the UN Network on Migration. IOM should continue to operate in emergency situations, developing resilience of people on the move, particularly those in situations of vulnerability, irrespective of their status. It should as well build capacity within governments to manage all forms of mobility and impact thereof in the present fluid context. Our unwavering support remains for the human-rights based approach towards migration. We also support the need for

undertaking a long-term approach while increasing preparedness for quick response to sudden crises. As the migration discourse seems to take a geo-political overtone, IOM would require strong international cooperation to play the role of an honest broker. To that end, we think the Strategic vision captures IOM's readiness to assume its new role. We appreciate DG's efforts to engage Member States and regional groups in the reform process. In this regard, we sincerely acknowledge DG's support to the declared initiative to organize the Asia Pacific Group in IOM.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh has been an ardent advocate for making migration work for everyone. To that end, we endeavored to suitably embed migration issues in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Bangladesh has made widely acclaimed contribution to global migration discourse. The Global Compact for migration (GCM) was adopted last year with a view to promoting a better migration governance through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. In this context, IOM needs to serve our ambition and aspiration to make migration work for all and leave no one behind. This warrants, inter alia, adequate allocation of resources for the required upgradation of the core structure something that is of vital importance.

Mr. Chair,

The importance of maintaining the operational character of the IOM is clear as its worldwide operation is crucial in international migration management. To adequately address the recent growth of global migration is of particular importance, and IOM is best placed to do so. Therefore, the growth in its operational activities in global, regional and national levels should continue to be supported by adequate planning and budget.

Mr. Chair,

Having the experience of tackling an unforeseen, massive humanitarian crisis, we value the importance of seamless coordination among the UN agencies. Indeed, Bangladesh has been a clear example of humanitarian assistance coordination among multiple UN agencies in close cooperation with the Government. In this regard, IOM's continued and crucial support to and constructive engagement with the Government of Bangladesh in emergency situations particularly concerning the Rohingya crisis stands out. In turn, IOM should receive international community's continued support. IOM's engagement in Bangladesh in situations of natural disasters as well as its support to our labor migration management is much appreciated. On the one hand, meeting at the national level in Bangladesh with IOM's assistance to implement GCM is encouraging and manifests our attachment to GCM and the organization on the other.

Mr. Chair,

Despite migrants' enormous contribution towards development, unfortunately inimical narrative against migration and migrants continues, accompanied by xenophobic and racist response to migration. We believe that safe, orderly and regular migration can only be guaranteed through sustained stability as well as inclusive economic progress across nations, leaving no one behind. Today's undertaking, therefore, needs to be holistic and cross-cutting.

Thank you.