

**Statement by the Delegation of Kazakhstan  
at the General Debate of the 110<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council**

Geneva, 26-29 November, 2019

**Mr. Chair,  
Mr. Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,**

At the outset, let me join other delegations in welcoming the new Chair of the IOM Council, the Permanent Representative of Denmark, members of Chair's Bureau, and assure of our full support.

Let me also warmly congratulate the Lebanon becoming a member of the IOM.

I would like to kindly welcome the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) as a new observer of the IOM Council.

The Central Asian region, in migration terms, is one of the most dynamic and fast changing in the world. Intraregional migration is the key feature in the region and is underpinned by geographical, cultural, economic, political and social links that are historical in nature.

All the countries of the region already enjoy excellent longstanding cooperation with IOM, be it on the bilateral basis, or on the regional basis within the existing Regional Cooperation Process called the Almaty process.

The Almaty process has become an effective platform for dialogue and cooperation on international migration and refugee protection. The Almaty process facilitates the sharing of best practices and the harmonization of policies on migration and refugee protection in Central Asia.

It contributes to the development of mechanisms for monitoring migration trends to predict and solve problems associated with irregular migration at the regional level.

We are grateful to the IOM for its active participation and support to the Process which aims to address, in a cooperative and coordinated manner, the multiple challenges resulting from complex migration dynamics and mixed migratory movements in Central Asia and the wider region.

In general, Kazakhstan pursues a consistent balanced migration policy. The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on September 29, 2017 approved the Concept of migration policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2017 - 2021 and an action plan for its implementation.

The concept defines the strategic goals, objectives and directions of the migration policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in conjunction with the expected prospects for the economic, social and demographic development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, foreign policy, integration processes and global trends in globalization.

The migration policy of Kazakhstan is based on the principles of:

- observance and protection of the rights of migrants, their inadmissibility of discrimination on the basis of race, nationality, language, origin, religion, political opinion, membership in a particular social group;
- ensuring compliance with the provisions of laws in the field of regulation of migration processes and international obligations;
- combining the interests of the individual and the state,
- combining the efforts of all branches of government and public associations;
- ensuring the rights and legitimate interests of the local population and migrants.

The Government of Kazakhstan hopes to strengthen mutually beneficial international cooperation both at the regional and global levels, and also intends to continue to contribute to migration policy.

We are also fully committed to continuing the close collaboration on the already existing national and regional projects in the area of migration.

The adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018 was a milestone in the development of good governance of migration and improved international cooperation on migration issues.

It presents a significant opportunity to improve the governance of migration, to address the challenges associated with today's migration, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development. The Global Compact is framed in a way consistent with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which Member States committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

It is still very difficult to estimate the number of migrants in the world in any particular year. Migration affects every region of the world, and many countries are now simultaneously countries of origin, destination and transit. While some migration is a positive and empowering experience, far too many migrants have to endure human rights violations, discrimination and exploitation.

We believe that the IOM's extensive experience and expertise on migration issues is essential for the effective implementation of the GCM.

With regards to the GCM implementation, we would also like to stress the important role which should be played, in our view, by the Regional Consultative Mechanisms.

As a responsible UN Member State, Kazakhstan is actively cooperating with all countries of the region to solve on the migration issues. We are grateful to all Member States for their willingness to further strengthen such cooperation.

In conclusion, let me reiterate Kazakhstan's full support to the IOM and our firm commitment to continuing close and fruitful cooperation with the organization.

Thank you for your attention!