

(Delivered Statement)

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai, Ambassador / Permanent
Representative of Nepal to the United Nations and other International
Organizations in Geneva at the 110th Session of the Council of the IOM
WIPO, Conference Hall, 28 November 2019**

Agenda Item 13: General debate

**Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director General Mr. Antonio Vitorino,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairperson and the Bureau members for their election. My delegation wishes to express sincere appreciation to the outgoing chairperson for his contribution and excellent work during his chairmanship.

We welcome Lebanese Republic as 174th member and International Commission on Missing Persons as observer of the IOM.

We appreciate the Director General for presenting the comprehensive report. We appreciate the DG for his open, transparent and consensual approach to his proposal on strengthening IOM top management structure.

Chairperson

Migration is a global common good that calls for collective action. We need to join hand to manage migration in order to make it a demographic dividend. Migrants can be agents of change, both in their own lives and for societies of host communities. In this context, the strategic vision 2019-2023 with three pillars, namely resilience, mobility and governance, provides a framework for global migration management. We underline the need for its effective implementation.

The World Migration Report 2020 outlines present day opportunities and challenges for further discussion of migration blue at all levels. This evidence-based research work would definitely enrich our migration discourse, not only at multilateral level but also at regional and national level.

With GCM and UN Network on Migration, IOM's role has been expanded. The UN Network provides a platform for enhancing coherence on migration issues within the UN system. In this regard, capacity building for the implementation of GCM at the regional and national level should continue to remain our priority.

On a particular note, my delegation is concerned over a 15 per cent reduction of 2020 operational budget at a time when expanded activities of the Organization demand more financial resources, especially for movement, emergency and post-crisis migration management, migration health, regulating and facilitating migration. We take positive note of the Working Group on Budget Reform to explore longer-term sustainable financial options.

Chairperson,

Over 4.5 million Nepali nationals are out of the country for overseas employment. Majority of them have either semi-skilled or low-skilled jobs. Their remittances make a significant share of national GDP. Therefore, facilitating safe, orderly,

regular and managed migration continues to remain our key concern and priority, as it will contribute to our efforts for meeting SDGs. We are engaged in an open dialogue with destination countries for safeguarding rights of migrant workers by ensuring ethical recruitment, fairness and justice at work place. Last year we signed three labour agreements with destination countries in the spirit of the GCM.

We appreciate the IOM along with all eight core-group of host countries, and the UNHCR for their support and cooperation in resettling over hundred thousand Bhutanese refugees in third countries. We are thankful to IOM for providing rescue support to 43 vulnerable Nepali migrants trapped in Libya by human traffickers only few months ago.

Chairperson,

The IOM is uniquely placed as the leading global organization for migration to achieve its primary goal- “to facilitate the orderly and humane management of migration”. The Organization can and has to play a role not just in ensuring fair and transparent policymaking, but also in explaining complex policy choices and communicating their impacts to migrants and the public. In this regard, it is our expectation that IOM will continue to remain instrumental in ensuring rights and dignity of millions of migrants all across the world and making migration a real win-win for all.

We wish this council all success.

Thank you!