

**Statement by Mr. Janga Bahadur Gurung,  
Minister Counsellor/Deputy Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United  
Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva at the  
112<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the IOM  
29 November to 1 December 2021  
Agenda Item 12: General debate**

Check Against Delivery  
(Time Limit: 3 Minutes)

Madam Chair,  
Mr. Director General,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

1. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Chairperson, on your election to the chair of the 112<sup>th</sup> IOM Council. I also take this opportunity to congratulate other distinguished Bureau Members on their election.
2. I wish to commend the outgoing Chair and his team for the outstanding contribution made during his chairmanship.
3. We appreciate the Director-General for presenting the comprehensive report. We also appreciate his efforts towards strengthening IOM.

Chairperson,

4. We congratulate IOM on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment. For the last 70 years, IOM has been the principal institution for migration.
5. With increasing vulnerabilities to migration, demand for IOM's operational support increased during 2020. With restrictions to global mobility and national lockdowns due to global COVID-19 pandemic, migrants suffered economically, socially and psychologically.
6. The Annual Report for 2020 reflects IOM's commendable response to the pandemic and its hard work at this extraordinary time.

Chairperson,

7. With over 4.5 million Nepali national in foreign employment and good share of remittances in national GDP, ensuring safe, regular and managed migration remains Nepal's top priority.
8. Nepal is closely working with IOM since 2006. We are thankful to IOM for its various support to the Government of Nepal in its efforts to manage migration effectively. We appreciate IOM, host countries and UNHCR for their support in resettling over a hundred thousand Bhutanese refugees in third country.
9. The Global Compact for Migration provides a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions and we must strengthen its institutional and functional capacity.
10. Nepal commends the noble initiative launched by the United Nations Network on Migration to support national migration priorities towards meeting the objectives of the GCM. We recall with pleasure that Nepal has already joined this initiative as a "pilot" or "champion" country on the GCM's objective six - facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work.
11. As we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IOM, IOM needs strong support of all stakeholders for playing an important role in the effective and humane management of migration.

I thank you.