



**Statement by the Indonesian Delegation
At the 96th Session of the Council of the IOM
2 December 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by congratulating Ambassador Hernandez on your chairmanship of this conference. My delegation believes that under your able leadership and by virtue to illustrious credentials and your broad experience, we are confident that you will lead this meeting to a fruitful conclusion.

We would also like to sincerely welcome the admissions for observer status to the IOM of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), as well as December 18. Their applications, once again, shows that the IOM is continually growing and is seen as an important forum for the global community in this present era. We have listened carefully the statement of the Director-General yesterday, in which my delegation would like to express our appreciation for the future programs and policies of the IOM.

Mr. Chairman,

From the very outset, Indonesia has supported the role and activities of the IOM. Indeed, a long-standing and notable cooperation between Indonesia and the IOM has existed in order to address the ongoing challenges and questions on migration and its related issues. We have in this respect, witnessed the imperative role international cooperation plays in dealing with such issues. Moreover, over time, we have also seen that the IOM has been steadfastly increasing the support and assistance it provides to member countries, and in particular, to the international community. It has always been Indonesia's commitment to assure a better cooperation with the IOM in order to facilitate the orderly and humane management of international migration through various effective and necessary measures which deal with the opportunities and challenges that exist in the field of international migration.

The current global financial crisis which we are now facing presents one of the gravest challenges ever to the international community. We know from past experience that an economic crisis generally carries with it severe social consequences which spreads into areas such as human migration. It can thereafter affect the weakest segments of society and also potentially increase poverty and inequality unless effective measures can be put in place. The depth and scope of the current financial crisis is unprecedented and will lead to a change in the flow of capital, goods, services and people. It will furthermore lead to a huge number of return-flows of migrants and migrations from all around the world. This in turn requires immediate and appropriate action.

Within this context, my delegation is of the view that the 96th IOM Council session and Global Migration Group, as well as the International Dialogue on Migration which will be organized today and into the coming days, will afford us a golden opportunity to tackle some of the formidable challenges presented by this crisis, as well as its consequences. It will also give us an opportunity to rethink and reshape our strategies in order to better adjust our focus as we address the challenges that we are currently facing today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Geneva, 2 December 2008