

Statement by  
His Excellency Mr. Alireza Moaiyeri  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the  
Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva at the 96th IOM Council  
(Geneva, 2-5 December 2008)

In the Name of God  
the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your election as the Chairman of the Ninety-Sixth IOM Council, and to other members of the bureau on their election. I would also like to, once again, congratulate His Excellency Mr. Swing, on his election as the IOM Director General and wish him success in overcoming challenges before our organization.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Migration is a reality of the present world and it is an economic, political, social and human phenomenon which requires comprehensive and serious attention of the world. An effective international migration management and monitoring could be achieved only by a comprehensive and coherent approach to the phenomenon of migration through dialogue and cooperation at all levels. Globalization and the increasing gap between developing and developed countries in different areas have resulted in the growth of migration and population movement. We believe that correct reaction to, and sound management of migration, could effectively contribute to narrow the gap between human societies, and lead to co-existence and world solidarity.

We welcome the present international dialogue on migration which started in New York and its following sessions in Brussels and Manila. Undoubtedly, our discussions on migration management should pay specific attention to different aspects,

including the relationship between migration and development, enhancement of scientific and technical cooperation, capacity building of developing countries, enhancement in understanding the implications of national policies on migration of other countries, consideration of the principal rights and dignity of migrants, and establishment of a balanced relationship between the rights and commitment of states and migrants.

The International Organization for Migration plays a constructive and sensitive role in promoting management and integration of migration policies. This has largely contributed to introduction of strategies and policies among its member states at bilateral, regional or international levels. The Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to support the valuable initiatives introduced by IOM. The Organization has already proved its capacity to play a leading role in mainstreaming efforts and initiatives addressing migration. Holding of the regional workshop on irregular migration and trafficking in persons, as well as the earlier establishment of an academy for migration and refugees studies in Tehran are good examples of constructive cooperation between Iran and IOM. We believe that implementation of further projects in the region, with the aim of enhancing the expertise as well as better understanding of different dimensions of migration will certainly lead to a more efficient utilization of this phenomenon.

Mr. Chairman,

Neighbouring the regions which have produced large scale and protracted displacement, over more than the past three decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly been confronted with mixed irregular and illegal population flow. This has placed a heavy financial burden on the Iranian nation and the government, and conducting projects to help the authorities manage those difficulties are a real necessity.

In conclusion, we are all aware that governments and organizations have been trying to reduce differences which prompt migration, by accelerating growth in sending countries, thus, tackling with the root causes of migration. We also note that the efforts over the past decades have demonstrated that reducing the inequalities which promote migration is a complex task that could not be realized in a short period of time. But we live with the belief that through the efforts of governments and all stakeholders we can achieve our objectives.

Thank you.

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