

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of the government of the Republic of Korea, I would like to congratulate on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Council and express our commitment to support your leadership. And I would like to take this opportunity to commend the laudable work done by Ambassador Garrigues as the former chairman.

The gratitude of my delegation also goes to the new Secretary General, Mr. William Lacey Swing, for his dedicated efforts to address the challenging issues of immigration.

It turned out that Secretary General Swing assumed his position at one of the most critical juncture: the increased number of immigrations and growing complexity of immigration-related issues today require ever more innovative and effective approaches to these issues; furthermore, we are witnessing a number of emerging factors, such as global financial crisis, food crisis, and environmental degradation, complicating our efforts toward achieving humane and orderly management of migration. In order to transform such multifaceted challenges into multiple opportunities, the reinforced role of the IOM combined with the support of the member states is called for more than ever.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation appreciates the IOM's renewed efforts under Mr. Swing's leadership to respond to the growing demand for its role. In particular, we note with pleasure that the delocalization process, one of the most important measures to enhance the efficiency of the IOM, has ~~proceeded seamlessly~~ ^{been finalized} without any major technical glitch. We also value the IOM's attempts to increase its transparency in budget and administration, which, we believe, will lead to the strengthened ownership of the member states.

However, there still remains room for further improvement. Especially, an endeavor to reconstruct the budget structure of the IOM should be promptly set to work. Through the intensive discussions in last SCPF and the following Working Group meetings, it became evident that the current budget structure is unsuitable to sustain the recent growth of the IOM. The repeated debate over the Zero Nominal Growth and Zero Real Growth of the IOM's budget cannot be a solution to the structural shortcoming of the budget. We believe that a more efficient and streamlined budget structure of the IOM will allow the organization to generate significant qualitative improvement from the

quantitative growth it has achieved for the last 10 years.

Mr. Chairman,

As crisply captured by the 2008 World Migration Report (just presented in this Council), migration is an integral part of the economic development process. To receiving countries, migration can offer the labor forces necessary for economic growth, while at the same time increasing efficiency in the use of human resources. To sending countries, migration can provide a form of development support, especially through remittances, transfer of know-how, and creation of business and trade networks.

The experience of the Republic of Korea, I believe, is one of the most revealing illustrations of such positive correlations between economic development and international migration. Today, the Republic of Korea, once a sending country, has more than one million immigrants originating from all around the world and the trend remains on the rise. My government has continued to reinforce the benefit of this trend, whilst attempting to effectively address various challenges it has generated in close cooperation with the IOM and international community. In particular, it now pays more attention to the process of socio-cultural integration of immigrant workers and their family members.

Mr. Chairman,

It is noteworthy that the current trend of immigration in the Republic of Korea has widened the field for its collaboration with the IOM more than ever. The ongoing process of establishing the Migration Research and Training Center by the IOM, the Korean Ministry of Justice and the Gyeonggi Provincial government is a good example, (We note with satisfaction that the International Symposium on Migration Policy Research and Training held on last November 25 to 26 allowed us to develop a clearer picture of potential scope of activities to be carried out by the center.) The government of the Republic of Korea will continue to improve its immigration-related policies and share its experiences with the international community in close cooperation with the IOM.

Thank you.