



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. MR. ZAMIR AKRAM
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

AT THE

96th SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL

Geneva
2 December 2008

**Statement by Ambassador Zamir Akram, Permanent
Representative of Pakistan, at the 96th Session of the IOM
Council - 2-5 December 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election to the Council. I also welcome Ambassador Swing as head of IOM. We wish him success and assure him of our full cooperation. My appreciation also goes to Ms. N'Diaye, Deputy Director General. We thank her for working hard for the rights of migrants and carrying forward the views of developing countries in the IOM.

We welcome the new observers - the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Qatar, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and December 18.

Mr. Chairman,

We are faced with challenging times. As governments are struggling for responses to the global financial crisis and the threat of global climate change, migration policies in many regions are becoming more restrictive. Some 20 million workers are expected to lose their jobs as economic growth stalls, and the number of people who struggle to live on less than 2 US Dollars a day will grow by another 100 million. Many migrant workers will be affected, and their families will be amongst the impoverished.

Restrictive migration policies contribute to an increase in irregular migration. Governments need to take a conscious decision to increase legal avenues of migration and the regularization of migration in irregular situations.

We believe that managing labour mobility in the evolving global economy poses a major challenge for the globalizing world. The World Migration Report is a welcome and an important step towards addressing this challenge.

The high level of participation in the Manila meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development this October (2008) represented the seriousness of the migration issue and its impact on most societies. The GFMD marks the culmination of a decade-long international discussion on the growing importance of the linkages between migration and development. The process is an acknowledgement of the need to address the policy implications and responses in a multilateral framework.

The outcomes of the GFMD will help pave the way to better use the multi-dimensional aspects of international migration and development and identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts.

Mr. Chairman,

Migration is a growing global phenomenon affecting all states whether as countries of origin, destination or transit. International migration, development and human rights are interconnected. Managed properly, international migration can be a positive force for development in countries of origin and destination. It needs to be mainstreamed into development policies and Poverty Reduction Strategy Programs (PRSPs).

In June 2007, IOM adopted its Strategy, with the objectives to facilitate the orderly and humane management of international migration. The Organization should continue to address the migratory phenomenon from an integral and holistic perspective, including links to development. The Organization needs to come up with developing specific projects in response to the Strategic objective number 12 – that of supporting the efforts of States in the area of labour migration, in particular short-term movements, and other types of circular migration. Such support and assistance is especially needed by labour sending countries in the developing world, that do not have either the experience or the financial resources for labour migration management.

The global financial crisis is likely to lead to the reduction of migrant workers especially in construction, industrial and manufacturing sectors. Restrictive migration policies in the labour receiving countries would further exacerbate the situation. Developing countries are therefore, likely to see a downturn in remittances that migrant workers send home.

The crisis is a sober reminder to us of the importance of good planning and coordination within and between governments at any time. Bilateral, regional and international policies require cooperation between governments. IOM has an important role to play in such a framework.

Chair,

We appreciate IOM's efforts in streamlining members' contribution assessments, and harmonizing the assessment scales with the UN system. We support the new budget assessments based on zero real growth. Under the new strategic policy outlook and the new leadership, the Organization should not be faced with constraints, especially for those projects that have an implication for developing countries.

With the implementation of the new Strategy and the increase of its membership, the staffing policies of the Organization should also reflect the global nature of the Organization. We support merit and geographical distribution to be the basis of recruitment. And, therefore, candidates from developing countries with good qualifications should be placed on priority. They should be given greater opportunities for contributing at policy levels. The gender perspective also needs to be integrated fully into staffing policies.

I thank you Mr. Chair
