



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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Statement by

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Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and wish you success in steering the work of the Council.

I thank Director General Swing for his vigorous leadership of the IOM and welcome his comprehensive report identifying challenges in front of us as well as IOM's responses to those challenges. Lastly, I would like also to welcome Ms. Laura Tompson at her first Council Session as Deputy Director General and wish her every success in her future activities.

Mr. Chairman, let me start by a quote from Director General who said in the last SCPF session that **"migration has emerged as a geopolitical issue and is on the agenda of virtually every country in the world"**.

The global and financial crises have already impacted daily life of millions of migrants and their families all over the world. Job losses, decrease of remittances negatively affect many developing countries. This poses additional challenges with regards to **racist and xenophobic attitudes** against migrants. Negative perception of migrants and stigmatization have a tendency to increase in many parts of the world. Effective measures should be taken to defeat this phenomenon. The Outcome Document of the Durban Review Conference held this April contains some important provisions in this regard.

The climate change continues to cause massive migration influx. We can only wish success to the Copenhagen conference to be held next month so that it takes into due account humanitarian consequences of the climate change.

Azerbaijan welcomes **the African Union Convention for the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons in Africa which is the first binding document on IDPs**. We hope that this historic document would contribute to the ongoing efforts to further raise the profile of the IDP issue at the global arena.

The link between **migration and development** is also of paramount importance and already brings its expected results. Well managed migration creates a situation in which sending countries, receiving countries and migrants finds themselves in a triple-win situation. This approach needs to be promoted by all actors.

But one thing is clear. **It is the countries of origin that should shoulder the main burden**. Only effective poverty reduction, economic development strategies initiated by sending countries can be a more efficient reply to migration related challenges.

While fully understanding some well-founded concerns of receiving states, human rights based approach should be always kept in mind and implemented.

Mr. Chairman, the increased number of Member States, budget which amounts to 1 billion US Dollars and projects in all corners of the world makes IOM a truly universal organization. In this context, we welcome efforts of Amb Swing aimed at adapting IOM to the realities of the constantly changing world.

We, therefore, should support **the proposed structural review** which is expected to make best use of human and financial resources and enhance greater coherence at Headquarters and consolidate structures in the field. We believe that this process will take into account the specificities, interests and priorities of each region and will not negatively affect the activity of the country offices. We thank IOM for the transparency by keeping Member States informed about the whole process.

Mr. Chairman, as you all may know, economic development of Azerbaijan during the last years changes migration patterns in my country. **Azerbaijan is becoming the country of destination.** It requires new effective measures from our side. Establishment of the State Migration Service in 2007 testifies to the resolve of the Government of Azerbaijan to better manage migration processes in the country.

These are some of the important steps taken this year in my country:

- The decree **on principle of “single window”** signed by the President of Azerbaijan March 2009 is aimed at improving the migration management mechanisms, giving authorization to foreign nationals and stateless persons to legally live and work in Azerbaijan, simplifying their registration according to the place of residence and ensuring transparency in these fields. One of main provisions of this Decree concerns the labor quotas for the foreign workers.
- The project of **“the strategy on readmission of the Republic of Azerbaijan”** has already been elaborated by the State Migration Service. Nowadays, the Working Group composed from different state agencies is working on it to complete this important paper and we are keen to learn from foreign experience in this matter.
- **The new National Plan of Action to combat trafficking** covering 2009-2013 in human beings has been approved this February.
- Because of latest developments, we are in the process of making **new additions and amendments** to the migration related legislative acts.

- **Single Migration Information System** has been set up in order to collect all migration related data.

Overall, Azerbaijan's experience of cooperating with IOM in the past has proven to be positive. We look forward to further strengthening our relations with the Organization in the years to come. Technical and consultative support by IOM to the relevant governmental agencies, especially SMS is crucial in this regard.

I thank you.