

Statement of the Chinese Delegation at the General Debate of
the 98th Session of the IOM Council

Mr. President

I would like to join other delegations to congratulate you on your election as president, and believe that under your wise guidance, this council session will be a success.

Mr. President,

Today, there are more than 200 million international migrants in the world, more than 3% of the world total population. There is no doubt that migrants have made tremendous contributions to the cultural exchanges, economic development and social progress of all countries. As the global economic and financial crisis is yet to wind up, its time-lag impact on labor market and employment has not diminished. Migrants still have to face challenges in their survival and development. Under such circumstances, a proper approach in addressing the global migration issue is needed. The Chinese delegation holds the following observations:

First, a proper handling of global migration calls for efforts to address the root cause of this issue. The cause of migration is, in the final analysis, the imbalance of economic and social development among different countries. At present, the widening gap between the North and the South has made the

attainment of MDG on schedule rather difficult. Therefore, a fair and equitable international economic order is needed to ensure the common development of all countries.

Second, international cooperation and dialogue should be strengthened. The countries of origin, transit and destination should step up dialogue and cooperation in the principle of interactional solidarity, shared responsibility, mutual respect and mutual benefit. Developed countries have the obligations to provide necessary assistance to developing countries in financing and technology, so as to help them improve their capabilities of preventing and combating illegal migration and human trafficking and enhance the skills of their migrants.

Third, the legitimate rights and interest of migrants should be effectively protected. In the light of the ongoing financial crisis, migrants, as a vulnerable group, are facing more severe challenges. Migrants have made great contributions to the global economic and social progress and shall not be victimized by the financial crisis. All countries should take into account the practical needs of migrants, safeguard their legitimate rights and interests, and solve their problems in employment, family reunion, children education, health care and social safety.

Mr. President,

The Chinese Government attaches high importance to the issue of migration and takes measures to protect the rights of regular migrants. We have adjusted border control policies, simplified entry/exit procedures, and

enhanced efficiency to facilitate regular population flow . In 2008 , the number of mainland Chinese citizens exit from and enter into the country reached 91.2 million, up 16.2 percent. During the first 9 months this year the figure was 69.5 million, up 2.2 percent from the same period last year.

Mr. President,

China highly values the role of IOM in coordinating the efforts of various countries to address migration issues. I would like to reiterate that China will continue to strengthen cooperation with other countries, IOM and other relevant international organizations to promote normal migration and make new contributions to prosperity and stability in the world.

Thank you, Mr. President.