



Statement by H.E. Zalmay Aziz, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan – during Ninety Ninth session of the Council of International Organization for Migration (IOM) 29 Nov. to -2 Dec. 2010, Geneva

Mr. Chairman,

Director General,

Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me at the outset congratulate you Mr. Chairman for your election to Chair the session and also the Vice-Chair, we have full confidence on your leadership. Mr. Chairman my delegation also welcomes and congratulates the new State members and the observers to the IOM.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) since its establishment has played a vital role in the migration field and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and host countries.

We welcome the report of the Director General and appreciate his efforts to achieve the commitments he made last year and remains committed for their further accomplishment. My delegation takes note of the report, particularly, under “Capacities for Change” where the report has mentioned that, IOM is committed to: “Developing Member States’ technical capacities to address labor migration; irregular migration; integration and environmental change”, in this regard my delegation will be more pleased to see the name of Afghanistan under the 1035 Facility in the near future. We support the motion “Migration integral to global economy” and take note of new developments in different fields including Humanitarian Assistance, Strategic Partnerships, Staff Professionalism, Gender Representation and Organizational Reforms that will lead to “establish and maintain IOM as leading migration agency”.

In Afghanistan we appreciate IOM's increasing focus on technical cooperation and capacity building of Afghan Governmental institutions in migration management areas, emergency relief to vulnerable displaced families, facilitating long-term return to and reintegration within Afghanistan and stabilizing migrant communities for sustainable development.

The implementation of the IOM programs in Afghanistan in close cooperation with national government counterparts and to support the goals of the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDs) are valuable.

We also appreciate the IOM's activities to support the voter registration, reintegration of Afghans returning from the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan, migration and development where till May 2009, 846 Afghan experts who lived abroad have returned to Afghanistan from 32 countries with IOM's assistance, regulating migration and technical assistance are to mention a few.

I would like to also mention some other projects that are already under process by IOM which require further attention, namely:

- Rapid Response Humanitarian Assistance
- Afghan Civilian Assistance Program
- Construction of Health and Education Facilities
- Returning further qualified Afghans
- Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
- Counter-Trafficking
- Passport and Visa Issuance Capacity Building
- Support to Provincial Governance

In this regard Afghanistan also greatly values the generous contribution by the donor countries.

I Thank you Mr. Chairman