

Statement of Armenia

Council of IOM

November 30, 2010

At the outset, my delegation would like to thank the Chairman and the Bureau for wise and able leadership and seeks their further guidance in highlighting important outcomes of our discussions.

Armenia has already aligned itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and at this juncture we would like to confine ourselves on focusing on Armenia's cooperation with the IOM.

We acknowledge the IOM's indispensable role in organizing migration in more orderly and humane way. The IOM's expertise and business-like approach have been continuously enabling many countries to build capacities as well as to forge inclusive and operable partnerships. We are pleased to note our excellent cooperation with offices of the IOM both here and in Yerevan.

It is often the case that the cooperation has been set up to address more immediate challenges such as combating trafficking in human beings and then was gradually enhanced towards overall management of the migration. To this end, we discern three various dimensions of migration management such as frameworks, context and issues. To be able to efficiently undertake migration management in all its layers, we need a solid empirical data which will not simply give figures but reveal real migrant situations and thus establish a clear picture of a framework that we are dealing with. There is nothing more persuasive in communicating with all stakeholders including potential migrants over challenges and opportunities than polls and surveys backed with reliable statistical data. We have had some joint important undertakings with the IOM and we expect this cooperation to be continued.

We note with appreciation IOM's involvement in regional partnership schemes through participating in various projects of the European Commission. In our view, regional partnership frameworks can provide evolving cooperation settings and IOM's involvement gives a necessary universal component and keeps cooperation

within the context of country's priority in migration management. By the same token, we strongly encourage the IOM to get involved in concluding bilateral labour migration agreements with countries of destination. Both Armenia and a country of destination will certainly benefit from experience of IOM in equipping future migrants with relevant knowledge and skills.

Another added value of this type of partnerships is the participation of NGOs including Diaspora organizations. It has been already stressed about the exclusive role of Diasporas in promoting orderly migration including return and development of their ancestral country. This topic was thoroughly scrutinized in the previous two GFMD meetings. Alongside with bilateral arrangements with the Diaspora organizations which constitute a constant factor in development of the Republic of Armenia, there is a good practice of bringing Diaspora organization in the regional partnership projects such as EU led return project. We look forward to continuing this pattern with the IOM given the similarity of small micro finance projects in remote and rural areas of Armenia and the conviction that the IOM is a reliable partner for Armenia in all schemes of partnerships.

Armenia considers legal labour migration with subsequent return and reintegration as a priority for managing migration in the near future. We are glad to note that this view is shared by the IOM and being currently addressed through planning of 1035 facility application. The technical assistance to Armenia in managing labour migration may initiate new legislation and action plans.

Last but not least we would like to express our view on the last part of the Director General presentation where necessity of finding win-win situations among main stakeholders of migration was underlined. We are also thankful to the Mexican Presidency of GFMD in addressing the phenomenon of negatively portraying migration or certain group of migrants according to some petty and parochial political interests. Here, our views are not innovative and they take their points of reference from the work-style of the IOM which means good faith in being part of a problem solution.

Thank you