



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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Statement by the Delegation of Azerbaijan

99th session of the IOM Council

Geneva, 30 November 2010

Mr. Chairman,

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

We thank Director General Swing for his leadership of the IOM and welcome his comprehensive report to the Council.

Lastly, we would like to extend our warm welcome to the countries and organizations on their admission to IOM as members and observers.

Mr. Chairman, yesterday Director General pointed out that international migration is becoming a more complex global issue and unilateral approaches are not enough, therefore, there is clear need to address migration management at the regional and international levels. We totally share Director General's views. We also believe that migration related problems cannot be solved with the efforts of law enforcement agencies or the projects of IOM alone. Tackling of root causes of migration, especially eradication of poverty and creation of job opportunities in the countries of origin is of crucial importance. Therefore, more work should be done by the countries of origin to address the root causes of migration.

While fully understanding the difficulties that irregular migration poses for the countries of destination, we also think that the respective Governments should do their utmost to protect human rights of migrants in all circumstances. We note with regret the rise of racist and xenophobic attitudes against migrants at the times of global and financial crises. Effective measures should be taken to defeat this phenomenon.

We welcome the fact that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is promoting and mainstreaming a human rights approach to migration within the United Nations system and highlighting key migration and human rights themes at the international level during its chairmanship of the Global Migration Group. In this regard we look forward to the interaction with GMG to be held this Wednesday.

As highlighted in the statement of the Director-General, the climate change continues to cause additional migration flows. We in the Human Rights Council while reviewing the human rights record of countries under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism once again witnessed that climate change not only produces migration influx, but also undermines a wide range of human rights, especially in the small islands states. We appreciate IOM's involvement to the humanitarian and migration crises, including Haiti and Pakistan.

Mr. Chairman, IOM as a leading migration agency should be ready to the challenges of the 21st century. IOM should strengthen its capacity to serve migrants and Member States in accordance with the 12-point Strategy.

We support the structural reform. We congratulate IOM for the progress made so far. We noted that the main focus in 2011 will be given to the implementation in the field. We reiterate our hope that the process will not negatively affect the activity of the country offices. We thank Ms. Laura Thompson for her efforts in this process and believe that the IOM will continue to keep Member States informed about it.

We hope that the budget reform will result in finding a predictable and long term solution. We welcome the approach taken by IOM concerning zero nominal growth for next year which takes into account the financial stringencies that Member States face.

Mr. Chairman, let me briefly touch upon the work undertaken by the Government of Azerbaijan in the migration related fields. The rapid economic development makes Azerbaijan the country of destination. Because of latest developments, we are making new additions and amendments to the migration related legislative acts by benefiting from the international experience.

The decree on principle of “single window” signed in March 2009 has improved the migration management mechanisms. The decree is 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.

The project of “the strategy on readmission of the Republic of Azerbaijan” has already been elaborated by the State Migration Service and nowadays relevant measures are taken to adopt this document. Single Migration Information System has been set up in order to collect all migration related data.

The National Plan of Action to combat trafficking covering 2009-2013 in human beings is being implemented. In addition, this February Azerbaijan signed the Council of Europe Convention against trafficking in human beings.

Last but not least Azerbaijan looks forward to further strengthening its relations with IOM. We hope our financial contribution will be increased for the next years to this Organization.

I thank you.