

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Zamir Akram, Permanent Representative of
Pakistan at the 99th session of the IOM Council
30 November 2010**

I would like to thank the Director General for presenting his report yesterday morning. It was both informative and thought provoking, clearly focusing on the challenges facing us today in the field of migration. He has provided us a sound basis for holding discussions on important aspects of the migration cycle, involving varying perspectives of origin, transit and host countries, with a view to promoting humane and orderly flow of migration.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the IOM for its strong support to the Government and people of Pakistan in responding to the immense challenges arising out of the recent floods. The Director General's visit during the onset of the disaster was most timely and greatly appreciated by the government and people of Pakistan. We are sure that IOM would continue to respond to emergency situations elsewhere with the same focus and dedication.

IOM also deserves appreciation for compiling the World Migration Report 2010 which would continue to guide our decisions and policy making

to adapt to the new challenges facing migration today. We fully endorse the point of view that migration, besides being an engine for economic change and development, is the driver for social change. It is a sine que non for social cohesion and hinges on awareness of migrant's rights by the local communities.

Unfortunately, we are today witnessing an increase in racist, xenophobic and intolerant attitudes in several parts of the world. Several political parties are resorting to policies and slogans which have no place in today's civilized world. I hope this report would help to address and resolve such issues by promoting harmony and social cohesion.

Addressing the impact of financial, economic and now the debt crisis is another challenge that needs our immediate attention. It poses serious challenges in terms of job losses, low remittances, criminalizing irregular migrants and discriminatory attitudes and policies that raise obstacles to smooth migration management. Emergencies, natural disasters and climate change have also brought a new dimension to these challenges. Adopting a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated strategy is the right way to address

these pitfalls. Adoption of a piece meal, fragmented and short term approach is no longer sustainable as has been rightly indicated in WMR 2010.

We must seize this opportunity and mainstream human rights into our migration policies. Stigmatizing and vilifying migrants and developing siege mentality has unfortunately did very little to address issues arising from migration. Empowerment of migrants as well as upholding their human, economic, social, cultural and economic rights is the correct approach to address the imbalances in the chain of the migration cycle.

Pursuance of these targets is achievable through dialogue between states and creating the political will to do so. IOM serves to provide strategic guidance and the right tools through the Global Migration Group and Global Forum on Migration and Development processes to realize these objectives. The GMG, by virtue of its structure, is well-poised to advocate adoption of a rights based approach in the migration cycle in line with states' priorities. Equally important is GFMD which can foster partnerships through a dialogue between states to address issues such as challenges to integration, intolerance, and exclusion of migrants from policy making, their detention and deportation without following due process.

Experience has shown that regional consultative processes, like the Colombo Process, have also been helpful in adopting common regional approaches to issues related to migration. We would like to see continued engagement of IOM with the Colombo Process to achieve organizational objectives of humane and smooth flow of migration.

We also support the Director General for undertaking organizational reform and review to enhance efficacy and efficiency of IOM and bring value addition~~s~~ to its work. We believe rotation of the staff, development of performance indicators and further improvement in the work of the Inspector General by giving more independence to this office will help augment Organization's capacity to deliver.

We also look forward to a sustained dialogue between member states in areas such as resettlement, border management, gender and health issues as well as labor and irregular migration.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that a fully financed IOM, working in close cooperation with the member states, in consonance with its mandate, is imperative to our mutual benefits.

I wish IOM successes and convey our full support for its 60th anniversary next year. I also pay our tribute to the six IOM staff that lost their lives in the line of duty.

Thank you very much.