

Statement by Head of Delegation of Turkmenistan  
103<sup>rd</sup> Session  
International Organization for Migration  
(26 November 2013)

Dear Mr. Director General

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear participants!

On behalf of the delegation of Turkmenistan allow me to greet you and express sincere gratitude for participation in this landmark event for Turkmenistan!

As you know one of the main directions of the foreign policy of Turkmenistan is to develop cooperation with large and reputable international organizations. In this context, International Organization for Migration is a long-term partner of our country.

Active foreign policy of the President of Turkmenistan characterized by the “open door” policy, has determined the issue of more closely integrated partnership with IOM. This implies joining by Turkmenistan the International Organization for Migration as a full-fledged member. Here we would like to emphasize that the practical activity of Turkmenistan and its active stance in addressing the challenges dealt by the International Organization for Migration, necessitated the joining of IOM as a member.

Mr. Chairman, Dear Members of the Council,

Allow me to express gratitude to the leadership of the organization and to all Member States for the support of the candidature of Turkmenistan in becoming the member of the Organization, and also take this opportunity to congratulate all other States that have become as Turkmenistan a new IOM members as result of the decisions adopted at the 103 IOM Council Session.

Turkmenistan's decision to join the IOM is a logical continuation of the existing long-term, productive and future oriented cooperation.

Turkmenistan, as an equal subject in the system of international relations, demonstrates its commitment to the highest ideals of humanity, the principles of democratic development and modern rules-based society.

It should be stated that Turkmenistan has established and implements an integrated system of effective legal and social protection of migrants. Turkmenistan successfully implements legislation on refugees and stateless persons, which meets the international standards.

Taking this opportunity, I want to express my deep appreciation for the assistance and support provided by IOM to our country in joint projects, programs, international conferences and for providing a platform for multilateral dialogue on migration.

Having become a full-fledged member of the Organization, Turkmenistan intends to take an active part in its activities.

As a member of the IOM , Turkmenistan will consider its active participation in international, regional and sub-regional initiatives and programs put forward by the Organization.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize once again that Turkmenistan aims at finding effective and sustainable solutions to global challenges of migration as well as cooperation with the IOM to strengthen the management systems of national and regional migration.

Thank you for your attention!