

**Statement by the Nepalese Delegation at the 105<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council**  
**Geneva, 27 November 2014**

**Mr. Chairperson**  
**Mr. Director-General**  
**Excellencies**  
**Distinguished Delegates**

At the outset, allow me to join other delegates in congratulating you, Mr. Chairperson, on your election. I also wish to congratulate the vice-chairs and the rapporteur on their respective elections. Please be assured of my delegation's full support in your efforts to lead the business of this Council to a successful conclusion.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Director General, Ambassador Swing for his strong and able leadership, and direction provided to the Organization. We take this opportunity to appreciate the Deputy Director General, Madame Thompson for her recent official visit to Nepal.

My delegation warmly welcomes the Independent state of Samoa as a new member of IOM and also the 14 new observers to IOM family.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

My delegation notes with appreciation the Director General's insightful report to the Council. We concur with his views that the world today is currently facing the largest number of humanitarian disasters and emergencies, and as a result of these events, a large number of persons have been forcibly displaced. We commend IOM for the strong role it has played to respond to such crisis and emergencies. The on-going policies and programmes undertaken by IOM to strengthen the Organization's performance in carrying out its mandate are worth appreciable, and we believe that IOM, as always, will focus on result-oriented actions in future.

We also appreciate IOM's role in paving way for concrete deliberations in the Second High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in October last year in New York, thereby playing an active role in advocacy for the inclusion of migration in the Sustainable Developments Goals. Migration is indeed an important cross-cutting issue which is related to poverty reduction, health, education and environment, among others.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

At a time when one in every seven persons is a migrant, Nepal has also witnessed a growing trend of out-migration for foreign employment. Every day, about 1500 to 1800 people leave the country for employment abroad. There are over 2.8 million Nepalese working abroad as migrants, which is about 10% of the total population of Nepal.

Remittances from migration thus, have been a backbone for Nepalese economy over the last many years. They contribute approximately 25% to GDP. The significant contribution of remittances to the national economy has, however, overshadowed the fact that most of the workers leaving for foreign employment are engaged in low-skill occupations which are associated with a lot of vulnerabilities.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Migration is beneficial to the country of origin, destination as well as the transit countries. It brings in important economic benefits to all. However, there are still some stereotypes attached to migrant workers and their roles, which need to be redefined in the light of an inclusive society we have envisioned for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Nepal stands for safe and regular migration of workers to the countries of destination for mutuality of benefits. It is extremely important to ensure the welfare and fundamental rights of the workers during the whole migration cycle. IOM should play an important role in bringing changes in the perception of migrant workers, and help ensure measures to bring migration and development in the mainstream of global development paradigm.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

As we have always counted on IOM during the times of complex emergencies, we are thankful for its assistance in the repatriation of stranded Nepalese migrant workers in Libya and Iraq. My delegation appreciates the support IOM has provided for the third-country resettlement of Bhutanese refugees sheltered in Nepal. We think that IOM can forge a better mechanism of responding to the rescue and rehabilitation needs of the migrant workers when they are trapped under emergency situations, in collaboration with Member States.

We also seek IOM's further assistance in capacity building, skill development of migrant workers and developing a positive correlation between migration and development.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, we wish to reiterate the Government of Nepal's commitment to work closely with IOM in its efforts towards orderly and humane management of international migration.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson.