

CLOSING REMARKS MRS RENATE HELD, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, IOM
Regional Office Vienna (ROV)

Regional Forum on “International Cooperation in the area of Migration and
Emergency Preparedness”

Ashgabat, June 18 2015

Dear Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Mr Hajiyeve

Excellences, Participants

It has been an honor for IOM to co-organize the regional forum on International Cooperation in the area of Migration and emergency preparedness, with the Government of Turkmenistan and with the participation of high level delegates from the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan. We are grateful to our host, the Government of Turkmenistan and in particular the President His Excellency Mr. Berdymuhammedov for the warm hospitality we received in Ashgabat.

The two days of the regional forum gave us the opportunity to look attentively at the complexities of migration crises and human mobility and discuss strategic approaches and tools, like the IOM MCOF, which can be used to prevent, as well as to address, crises for the benefit of the governments and societies.

As we saw from the various presentations crises don't often fit into neatly defined boxes. Governments are often faced with multiple crises at the same time, dealing with before, during and after phases simultaneously in different areas. Migrants are often overlooked in times of crisis, but should also be considered as a specific vulnerable mobile population, amongst other groups, with protection needs.

The IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) should be used as a strategic tool , both on country as well as on regional level to facilitate Governments to address the multifaceted aspects of crises individually or collectively.

IOM is pleased to see that countries in the region (such as Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan) are becoming providers of humanitarian assistance in this region, and beyond, exemplifying good practices as solid grounding in policy, legislation and regional cooperation as needed to address the myriad of challenges related to migration and emergencies.

Cooperation and coordination on emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction are fundamental principles to holistically address crises on national and regional level. Regional Consultative Processes , like the Almaty Process, as well as bilateral and multilateral initiatives initiated by all of you in this region can be very well used as policy and capacity building platforms to address the needs of the governments in

thematic areas of importance, such as emergency preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), contributing to stabilization of countries and regions. Here I would like to underline the importance of bottom up initiatives such as the Regional Hub for disaster response which is under creation in Almaty.

IOM welcomes the proposal of the countries, as it seems that the time is ripe, for the formation of a regional working group on emergency preparedness and DRR to start working in proactively addressing, the needs of the involved governments. IOM stands ready to provide technical assistance expertise and advise to its Member States within the framework of this working group.

IOM confirms its commitment to work closely with its member states in addressing issues of interest and concern in the framework of the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit which aims to set the agenda for a more inclusive and diverse humanitarian system in order to make humanitarian action more effective. All participants here should be viewed as stakeholders in the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit, which is a chance to put forward recommendations relevant to the Central Asian region. It is important to explore further the synergies between humanitarian assistance and development assistance and how the rapprochement of those two areas can benefit countries and societies.

I would like to thank once more the Government of Turkmenistan for the organization of this event and once more congratulate the Government of Turkmenistan on the 20th anniversary of the status of neutrality and on the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution on “Permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan”.

I would also like to pay tribute to all IOM and Government delegations, and participants, of Central Asia and Afghanistan for their valuable inputs and engagement in the Regional Forum which substantially contributed to making this event possible, productive and fruitful for all of us.

Thank you!