

**Statement by Mr. Seyyed Mohammad Tahavvori**  
**Director for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs ( Ministry of Interior- I.R. of Iran)**  
**at the 100<sup>th</sup> session of the Council of International Organization for Migration**  
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**Mr. Chair,**

At the outset I would like to congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship of the 100<sup>th</sup> Council which is going to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the International Organization for Migration. During the past 6 decades, IOM, once a provisional intergovernmental committee for the movement of migrations from Europe has gradually and constantly evolved and emerged as a worldwide pioneer organization with the primary goal of facilitating the orderly and humane management of migration. Now after 60 years that the foundation of the Organization has been laid, the world is experiencing the movement of the large scale of people due to disparate reasons more than any other time. This fact put emphasis on the importance of the goals, functions and strategies of IOM and the need for enhancing the understanding of intricate aspects of movement of people for meeting the needs of migrants and member states.

Mr. Chair, I would also like to welcome the new 14 members of the IOM. With these accessions, IOM has taken another step for being a global organization. This simultaneously, will enhance the capacity of members and the organization for a coherent global management of migrations.

**Mr. Chair,**

The International Organization for Migration has accomplished its structural reform during the past year. The structural reform has been done for improving the efficiency of the organization. In the same line, by considering all the efforts made for having a much more professional organization, it is quite imperative that the IOM take further steps for demonstration of the real absorption of human resources from all members. For this, it is necessary that enough attention to be paid to the situation and geographical location of members as a country of destination, transit or origin. Mr. Chair, an organization with more than 8300 staff throughout the world and with 146 members needs to be sensitive about the equal geographical presence of different members within the body of the organization. The presence of staff from all members could be regarded as part of efforts for proprietorship alongside with professionalism.

**Mr. Chair,**

1035 facility is very important for rapid and flexible response to the challenges of the developing members and countries with economy in transition. The goal made by the Director General for increasing the amount of facility under 1035 resolution is indeed quite imperative specially by considering expansion of developing members of the organization.

**Mr. Chair,**

Adoption of the resolution for establishing migration emergency funding mechanism is a very positive response to the migration needs in a complex humanitarian situation. We hope that the implementation of this resolution to facilitate future migration emergency interventions of IOM through consent of the affected countries and to increase the ability of IOM to protect and assist migrants that their lives are in danger in the humanitarian emergencies by availability of enough funding.

**Mr. Chair,**

The geographical location of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made it as a desired country of destination as well as a transit country in the region. Unfortunately the socio-economic situation of neighboring countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran -specially those that due to the consequences of war their economic infrastructures has been severely damaged- has caused the large scale movement of people as refugee, displaced person and irregular migrant towards Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran, while protecting refugees and displaced population, by understanding the situation of the neighboring countries, pursues policy of tolerance and interaction regarding the irregular migrants. But the presence of huge number of irregular migrants has brought mammoth pressure upon different sectors of the country and imposed high costs for management of the impacts of this phenomenon.

In fact by considering the total refugee population and irregular migration from Afghanistan in the Islamic Republic of Iran, it can be said that about 10 percent of population of Afghanistan reside in Iran. This figure shows the need for establishment of a proper mechanism for management of irregular migrants by focusing on the socio economic situation in the country of origin through development programs. At the same time, the phenomenon of irregular migration needs to be tackled through a comprehensive approach by cooperation of the country of origin. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran, is of the view that the hardware approaches for dealing with the phenomenon of irregular migrations is not effective, therefore the adopted policy on the basis of carried surveys for the management of irregular migration is on the agenda and has been carried out in some part.

Furthermore, Mr. Chair, I need to reiterate that the phenomenon of Irregular migration has been woven tightly with the illicit trade of human smuggling. Regrettably migration smuggling is a lucrative business which is based on the activities of organized groups at international level from country of origin and transit to the country of origin. The counter-trafficking measures can not be done in isolation by states due to the nature of this organized crime and for the high cost of counter measures. Therefore It is expected that by considering the situation of countries of origin effective cooperation for developing counter-trafficking projects within the framework of IOM and according to the formulated strategies is needed.

In the end Mr. Chair, we encourage IOM for more and closer cooperation with UNCHR especially for providing facilities for returnees. Furthermore, I would like to reiterate that the expertise, assistance and capacity of the 60 year-old IOM will help the members to look at the management of migration through a global perspective and to interact and cooperate with each other for overcoming the complexity of this dominating phenomena of our time and era.

I thank you