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**Remarks by Ambassador Elchin Amirbayov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the 90th session of the Council
of the International Organization for Migration
Geneva, 1 December 2005**

I'll start by joining previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to Ambassador Alba of Mexico and the outgoing members of the Bureau for their able stewardship of the Council as well as by congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, and new members of the Bureau upon your election. I wish you every success in fulfilling the tasks before you.

Our congratulations also go to Republic of Belarus, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Ghana, and Togolese Republic on their admission to the Organization as members.

Mr. Chairman,

In the contemporary world, international migration continues to play an important role in national, regional and global affairs. The complex and often contradictory effects of migratory flows today affect nearly every country. It is therefore only natural to see worldwide attention to migration issues growing and finding its place within comprehensive debates at various fora.

Migration continues to contribute to important goals such as economic development, social dynamism, cultural richness and diversity. Maximizing the above-mentioned benefits of the international migration and minimizing its adverse consequences can be achieved only when migration with its interdisciplinary nature is properly managed. Experience shows us that it is impossible to respond to changing migratory trends on an ad-hoc basis. Non-dimensional approach to migration management is unlikely to solve the problem. There is a growing awareness that contemporary migration can no longer be treated as an isolated issue but must be considered as a process to be managed in a comprehensive manner.

Therefore, policy coherence at national, regional and global levels is needed to enhance the prospects for successful and mutually beneficial migration. Having said that we welcome the current topic of the International Dialogue on Migration as a timely one in the light of its relevance to today's reality.

We fully share the view that coherence is first and foremost crucial within governments to ensure that policy formulation and implementation are effective and purposeful as well as relevant coordination is in place and every country has to seek that coherence. Nevertheless, efforts to achieve policy coherence are unlikely to have desired impact unless relevant capacity in terms of institutional arrangements, legislative basis and human resources is in place to effectively manage migration.

Probably, no single state has adequate instruments and capacities to address migration challenges by itself even if it achieves advanced level of policy coherence at national level. Multidisciplinary and transnational character of migration today proves the significance of international cooperation. Initiatives fostering interstate dialogue and cooperation are considered as important steps to achieving policy coherence at international level.

Role of intergovernmental institutions in such cooperation is crucial. We support a view reflected in the Report of Global Commission on International Migration that as more organizations include migration within their scope of interests, a coordinated approach becomes an important means of pursuing policy coherence to avoid possible duplication, save already limited funds and clarify their respective responsibilities in various aspects of migration.

We clearly recognize a significant and leading role IOM plays in achieving and subsequent pursuing coherence both at national level through its technical, consultative and other services to states and international one playing as a forum for dialogue, cooperation and partnership on migratory questions between various stakeholders. In this regard, we should like to welcome the creation of the Business Advisory Board by IOM an endeavor that in our opinion will contribute to identifying and exchanging ideas on issues relating to migration and business and developing practical solutions.

Mr. Chairman,

We, in Azerbaijan, have been continuing efforts in cooperation with IOM to achieve policy coherence in migration management at national level. Since the last Council, the Government and Parliament of Azerbaijan have undertaken a set of measures to further strengthen migration management, to name just a few, by drafting State Programme of Migration Management to be approved in near future, adopting "Law on Trafficking in Human Beings" and establishing Migration Service Department and Department on Combating against Trafficking in Human Beings within the Ministry of the Interior. At the same time, currently my Government reflects on possibility to launch a comprehensive institutional reform in the field of national migration management capacity.

In realizing the national initiatives, we rely on technical and consultative support by the IOM. Migration and development, border management and in broader terms further enhancement of national capacity building, in particular tackling irregular migration and trafficking in human beings are among the main priorities in our cooperation with IOM. Human resource capacity development should enjoy primarily attention in joint cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Coming back to global migration management, allow me to focus briefly on following aspect of migration. The linkage between migration and security has become an issue of greater international concern for well-known reasons. While fully acknowledging legitimate concern of any state with respect to its national security, nevertheless states have to increase security within their borders without prejudicing human rights of migrants and asylum seekers. Prevalent tendencies of xenophobia, racism and discrimination in host societies with respect to migrants should be effectively addressed. At the same time, migrants should also abide by the laws of the host countries by rejecting all forms of intolerance.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me stress that the year 2006 promises to be an important year in global migration management in the light of thought provoking proposals and recommendations made recently by the Global Commission on International Migration in its report which my Government is carefully studying as well as in the light of preparations for the UN General Assembly next year's High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development. Azerbaijan is keen to actively participate in future deliberations and to continue contributing to efforts in managing migration at national, regional and global levels.

Thank you.