



*Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
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**Statement by
H. E. Mr. Sajjadpour**

**Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Before the
90th Session
of the
IOM Council**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me express my country's congratulations to you and other members of the Bureau on your election, as well as the appreciation of the activities of previous members of the Bureau. I would also like to thank Mr. McKinley, the Director General of IOM for his comprehensive statement.

Over the past few years, migration has gradually become a top issue on the agenda of the international community. Three significant reports, namely the report of the Global Commission on International Migration, the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects 2006 and IOM's World Migration Report 2005, as well as the International Agenda for Migration Management, the International Dialogue on Migration in this forum and the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development next year are some typical indications that migration is of significant importance for all members of the international community.

An ongoing issue under discussion nowadays is the nature of migration, which many believe is conducive and would bring along economic prosperity and poverty reduction. However, issues such as brain drain and integration are still critical challenges of migration for a number of countries.

Migration management is an effective tool in benefiting countries at the national, regional and international levels. To this effect, the key role of the International Organization for Migration, in further enhancing and facilitating the related qualifications of migration management, remains crucial, and it is needless to emphasize that IOM's expertise, know-how and financial channels should be equally distributed among all member states.

It is also important to note that the future strategy of the IOM should be of a responsive nature to the challenges facing migration

as well as the Organization. We would like to express our appreciation for this year's international dialogue on policy coherence on migration, as well as the workshop on migration and development held early this year, here in Geneva which was of great interest to many delegations. We support a follow-up on this issue. The second inter-sessional workshop on developing capacity to manage migration was also very productive. In this context, issues of south – south migration as well as the migration of healthcare workers are appropriate topics to be discussed next year.

The issue of human trafficking is also a global topic which is closely linked to migration and migratory movements. We are of the view that it is necessary to examine the actual causes and consequences of human trafficking, and to address the concerns related to it. The complicated nature of this issue demands coordinated efforts in order to find a realistic solution. Our country has been largely impacted by human trafficking from countries such as Southeast and Central Asian countries. Iran has suffered huge human and economic costs, and has taken appropriate measures, including the establishment of new regulations, to combat the human trafficking networks. Iran is ready to exchange its experience with the member states, and therefore suggests that IOM hold a workshop in collaboration with the concerned stakeholders. This workshop could lead to a better understanding of the problem, and recommend some policy suggestions to address the problems concerned by human trafficking.

Now let me refer to our cooperation with IOM. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a sending, transit and destination country for migrants, attaches great importance to the issue of migration at large, and migration management in particular. In this line, Iran has been strengthening its cooperation with the International Organization for Migration.

In this regard, I would like to mention that the Academy on Migration and Refugee Studies (AMRS) was established in Tehran in the year 2004. The Academy has, so far, been able to successfully conduct various training workshops on counter trafficking and border control as well as enhancement of capacity for migration management. The latter will be followed by another workshop next year. In addition, the first Overseas Employment Conference, attended by representatives from Pakistan and Afghanistan, was held in March 2005 in Tehran. As a follow-up, IOM is now planning to organize, in collaboration with the Iranian authorities, the second Overseas Employment Conference next year.

A coordinated policy, supported by cooperation at national and regional levels, is indeed a necessity in our neighborhood.

We consider the initiative of a trilateral dialogue on migration issues among Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan as a good starting point in the region. Iran, which geographically acts as a strategic bridge linking the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, South Asia and Mediterranean countries together, can play a key role in the regional cooperation on migration issues. With the implementation of further projects in the region, aimed at enhancing the expertise, know-how and capacity on migration, countries will be able to uplift their understanding of migration and migration management.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we are confident that a better understanding of different dimensions of migration will certainly lead to a more efficient utilization of this phenomenon.

I thank you,
Mr. Chairman.