

In the name of God, the Compassionate the Merciful

At the outset I would like to express my gratitude to Secretariat for organizing this important Meeting. I assure you that the outcomes of this regional approach could contribute to Global Migration and Development process and leads to key areas for action and cooperation.

The issue of migration across the international borders has become as one of the structural elements of international communities. Multidimensional aspects of migration including linkages with development and human rights is well recognized.

As the statistics show the Asia and the Pacific region in 2005 was home to over 58 million migrants out of 191 million international migrants. We can hardly say today no country is affected by one of these situations, namely being as origin, transit, and destination country, or a combination of one, two or all.

Migration occurs due to a variety of push and pull factors. Push factors largely stem from conditions in a migrant's home country that influence migration and pull factors are those that create incentives for individuals to migrate. Today's migration flows reflect the basic structural inequalities that exist in current global economic system, unbalanced development, and great economic and social gap between the developed and the developing countries.

The linkage between development and migration is still a subject of debate. On one hand, migration can have positive developmental impacts, such as of increased remittance flows, the provision of employment opportunities, poverty alleviation, increased cultural interaction, and skills transfers. On the other, migration may also have negative developmental impacts for the home country including the brain drain, loss of human capital, and adverse personal impacts for migrant themselves.

Mr. Chairman,

My country due to its geopolitics situation in west Asia has been a country of destination, transit and origin for migration, and plays an important regional role in managing the migration flows.

Iran is an attractive destination for its neighboring countries and a transit to others as well. It links west Asia to Central Asia, and Europe.

On the other side, Iran is the origin country of migration. Many of these Iranian migrants are skilled, talented and highly educated persons. They have played constructive and developmental roles in receiving countries which has been recognized well.

Receiving countries are encouraged on their parts to observe certain responsibilities. Ensuring the rights and welfare of migrants should be recognized by receiving countries. Respect for migrant's human rights is one of the basic determinants of their well being, which could lead to achieving greater social and economic development. It is important that migrants be treated fairly have access to affordable basic social services in receiving countries.

Mr. Chairman,

At national level, my country has endeavored to enhance its national capacities by adopting coherent policies for managing migration flows. The Islamic republic of Iran with the assistance of International Organization for Migration has held varies of workshops and seminars on migration management issues at different levels.

As the trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants continue to pose serious challenges to humanity, the following effective measures have been taken in Iran:

- An Inter ministerial mechanism with the cooperation of Judiciary has been set up.
- The counter trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants Act has been adopted in the Iranian parliament in July 2004. The criminalization of trafficking and the way to counter it by the justice system has been defined.

- At regional level, my country has participated in quartet Ministerial meeting among Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Greece in Athens in December 2005. In the joint statement, establishment of an mechanism for exchange of information, of early warning system and as well as regular consultations among high levels officials and experts have been agreed upon.

-In September 2006, the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted the Ministerial Conference of ECO whose theme was "*Security, Stability and Sustainable Development*". To Counter a) trafficking in persons and b) illegal migration was among the issues agreed by participants.

At international level, Iran has actively participated in various seminars, workshops and conferences including the Bern initiative, High level dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York, First Global Forum on International Migration and Development in Brussels and is preparing itself for Second Global Forum on International Migration and Development in Manila in October 2008.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

- The international migration should be managed in a way to maximize the positive effects for sending and receiving counties, minimize the negative impacts and alleviate the concerns of developing countries. This management should be done at national, regional and international level.

A balanced and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, particularly by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities including the management of migration should be encouraged.

Thank you