

**STATEMENT BY MS. ESEN ALTUĞ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOR MIGRATION, ASYLUM AND VISA, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF TURKEY ON BEHALF OF THE GFMD CHAIR
105th SESSION OF IOM COUNCIL
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Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director General,
Distinguished Colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to address the 105th Session of the IOM Council on behalf of the Turkish Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

Today I would like to bring you up to date on the preparations for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) which Turkey is privileged to chair as of July of this year. The GFMD summit will be held in Istanbul in October 2015, to be chaired by the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs. We have just yesterday completed the second round of preparatory meetings in Geneva.

The theme for the 8th GFMD is “Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development.” This theme signals our recognition that international migration cannot be managed effectively by any one country alone, or by states without the cooperation of other stakeholders—including international organizations, civil society and the private sector. It also emphasizes that mobility within the right policy framework is a positive factor for development.

Over the past nine years, the GFMD has explored some of the fundamental concepts underlying the relationship between migration and development. We have now reached a stage of maturity in this state-led process, following the 2nd High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development at the United Nations in October 2013, where we can take our discussions to a new level of concreteness and practicality, while continuing to explore new and emerging aspects of the migration-development nexus.

In this regard, the Turkish Chair will organize a first GFMD thematic meeting in February 2015 to contribute to understanding the ways in which migration should

be included in the post-2015 Development Agenda. By the time the 8th GFMD meets in Istanbul, the post-2015 development agenda will have taken shape. The immediate next steps will be to analyze the place of migration in the Sustainable Development Goals and to work out a plan of action for achieving the migration targets mentioned in the post-2015 agenda. Thus, GFMD 2015 will also consider how to insert migration into the implementation plans for Sustainable Development Goals.

The program for the 2015 GFMD continues the very strong emphasis on the human rights of migrants. It is clear that migrants who are protected and empowered are best able to contribute to the development of their countries of origin and destination. Our overarching theme of partnerships draws attention to the importance of cooperation among states and other stakeholders, in promoting inclusion and protecting the rights of all migrants. In addition, we will focus on two areas on which enough progress has been achieved to make them ripe for cooperative action: namely, reducing the costs of remittances and lowering both the costs and the risks of international recruitment of migrant labor. On recruitment, we are mindful of the innovative work that IOM is doing to develop the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS), which contributes greatly to illustrating the benefits of a collaborative approach to international labor recruitment.

We will devote particular attention to the growth-and job-creating potential of migrant and diaspora entrepreneurs, and how both government and private sector actors can work together to support them. In fact, dialogue with the private sector on migration related policies, has been initiated by the Swedish Chairmanship of GFMD.

The Turkish Chairmanship is aware of the need to continually refresh the GFMD agenda to assure that it is relevant to events unfolding in the world today. As you know, Turkey today shelters more than 1.6 million Syrians under temporary protection, and the massive displacement shows no sign of ending. The international community urgently needs to find innovative, long-term cooperative arrangements beyond traditional humanitarian approaches to enable forced migrants to use their talents and energy to sustain themselves and contribute to development in countries of asylum. Humanitarian agencies are exploring developmental approaches to forced migration, but development agencies and

migration authorities also need to be involved in this debate, which could be advanced at the GFMD. We hope and expect that IOM will welcome it as a new avenue for collaboration with the GFMD.

Cutting across these issues, we will highlight the specific contributions and the distinctive needs of migrant women. The role of communication tools in improving public perception of migrants will also be addressed.

The Turkish Chair of the GFMD will have the opportunity to take the results of GFMD deliberations into other global agenda setting meetings, as Turkey will chair the G-20 in 2015, and will host the first World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.

We are very grateful for the enthusiastic support that IOM has given to the GFMD and we look forward to working with this Council, and with IOM broadly, to take forward the migration and development agenda that IOM has worked so hard to advance.

Thank you for your attention.