**Permanent Mission of India**
**Geneva**
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**20th Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance (SCPF) (22-23 June 2017)**

**Comments by India**

 Mr. Chairperson,

1. My delegation wishes to thank Director General Ambassador Swing and his team, both at headquarters and in Missions abroad for continuously working for protection of migrants and their efforts towards ensuring well managed and orderly migration. I would also like to thank the Bureau members for their valuable contribution to this process and IOM Secretariat for detailed documentation for this meeting. We welcome appointment of Ambassador Negash Kebret, Permanent Represetative of Ethiopia to UN as the 2nd Vice Chair of IOM Council.

2.      Around a year back IOM became a related organisation of UN which facilitated membership to IOM in important UN bodies like United Nation Chief Executive Board, United Nations Development Group, Inter-Agency Standing Committee; Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs; Global Migration Group; Country-level security management teams. We are hopeful that this new relationship will bring greater coherence in delivery of services on ground and eventually bring better returns on the investments made by Member States and other stakeholders. We expect IOM to reflect this in the coming Council meetings.

3. We recognise the proactive steps taken by IOM to address the humanitarian needs of affected population by taking up challenging and often dangerous field operations. IOM’s crisis management capabilities should further be up-graded so as to make it the most preferred agency of UN to handle humanitarian crisis.

4. We find ‘IOM’s Comprehensive Report on Migrant Smuggling’ an insightful document, particularly the approach to address the multiple dimensions of migrant smuggling around the four pillars of provide protection and assistance to smuggled migrants; addressing the causes of migrant smuggling; enhancing States’ capacity to disrupt the activities of migrant smugglers; promoting research and data collection on migrant smuggling. We call upon IOM to address migrant smuggling in comprehensive and effective manner and to ensure that bona-fide migrants do not face additional barriers.

5.      A perusal of the Programme and Budget for 2017 shows that there is substantial increase in operational programme particularly under the heads like emergency and post-crisis migrant movement, regulation migration, and facilitating migration etc. Despite substantial increase in allocations, we find that funds made available for assistance to migrants in South and Central Asia region has not seen matching allocation of resources despite taking full cognizance of the prevailing situation. We expect that adequate funds will be provided as and when need arises.

6.     We are happy to note that Supreme Audit of Ghana, the External Auditor of IOM has gone through the detailed auditing procedure for evaluating the accounts of IOM and had come up with recommendations which are useful in further strengthening the financial management of IOM and in bringing greater efficiency. We request DG IOM to examine the recommendations of External Auditor and implement it as early as possible. We also expect IOM to submit an Action Taken Report in this regard to Member States and keep the Member States fully briefed on those recommendations which IOM is not in position to implement.

7. We support IOM’s approach to further strengthen operational capability and efficiency through complementary partnership with regional economic communities, civil society organizations, public-private entities among other important stakeholders. We would also like to support IOM’s active engagement through various outreach programmes including social media tools.

Mr. Chairperson,

8.      We would again wish to recommend IOM to embark on the path of assessing and reporting its programmes and activities, on quantifiable parameters, based on the Principles of Outcome Based Assessment.  An institutional mechanism should be put in place to receive feedback from the end users and beneficiaries on quality of services offered and seek suggestions in order to continuously improve the programme and its delivery. Analysis of IOM’s cost of operations vis-a-vis its peers should also be routinely carried out.

9.    We believe, these inputs will provide valuable insight to the member states and serve as a tool to further improve upon and develop efficient programmes and models of operation for IOM.

 I thank you Mr. Chairperson.

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