

to expectations and movement of people around the globe. Poverty, social exclusion,

Being from a country of origin, transit and destination, and while suffering a lot from the negative consequences of migration, my government attaches great importance to the ongoing negotiations and cooperation at all levels. Iran, which is located in a strategic area linking the Persian Gulf to Central Asia and South Asia to Mediterranean countries, can play a key role in the regional cooperation on migration. I would like to highlight here several measures that my country has resorted to in order to address the question of migration.

With the cooperation of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Iran embarked on enhancing national capacity in dealing with migration. So far, several training courses on the management of international migration have been successfully held. In order to address some of the negative aspects of migration such as human smuggling and trafficking in persons, my government has also taken the following measures:

1. **A new Law entitled: "Combating Human Trafficking" has been adopted by the Iranian parliament in July 2004.** In this law, Human trafficking acts are defined and the punishment of the perpetrators have been included;
2. **A cooperation mechanism has been set up in the Iranian Interior Ministry composed of several general directorates of the above-mentioned Ministry, Ministry of Labor and Social affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary;**
3. **At the regional level, Iran has participated in the quadripartite Ministerial meeting between, Greece, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey held in Athens in December 2005 on Fighting Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons.** The Joint Declaration of this meeting contains important parameters, including: materialization of the previous agreements, establishing a more effective