

108th Session of the IOM Council

Statement of The Arab Republic of Egypt

by

H.E. Ambassador Alaa Youssef

Permanent Representative of Egypt

Agenda Item: General Debate

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Geneva

Thank you Madame Chair,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as chair of the Council, and wish you success in your mission. And also thank H.E ambassador Quinn for his efforts as chairman of the previous session of the council. We welcome Cuba and Cook Islands as new members, and the state of Kuwait as observer to the organization.

Egypt aligns itself with the Statement of the African Group presented by Ghana, and appreciates the efforts exerted through the past year by the Director General and his dedicated team in leading the organization on international migration issues. We commend the DG's report which provide adequate update on IOM activities and partnerships, risk assessment and management, efforts in promoting well-being of migrants, and progress related to the ongoing process of the Global Compact for Safer, orderly and regular and migration.

Madame Chair,

My country expresses its dedication to the strong partnership and close cooperation with IOM, The Regional office of IOM was established in Cairo in 1991. It provides policy, technical support to IOM offices in 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. It cooperates on raising awareness, enhancing capacity, and dialogue on migration management with the Egyptian authorities and the Egyptian National Committee for combating and preventing illegal migration. The office also

supports regional initiatives, and regional consultative mechanisms on migration.

In this Regard, Egypt hosted, in cooperation with IOM, on 8th and 9th November in the city of "Luxor" a trilateral meeting for the three regional processes on migration namely Rabatt process, Khartoum process, and African Union-Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants. Participants from 52 countries from Africa and Europe, as well as other organizations had open and comprehensive discussions, and presented their national experiences related to enhancing cooperation on combating human trafficking and smuggling, with specific attention to unaccompanied minors. The meeting concluded by issuing the "Luxor Joint Chairs' Conclusions" with an agreement between the chairs of the three processes to enhance cooperation and concentrate on complementary mechanisms between them.

Egypt issued the anti-human smuggling law number 82/2016 that addresses the rights and needs of Smuggled migrants, an anti-illegal migration fund will be established under purview of the prime minister to provide assistance to victims of illegal migration. With the adoption of such legislation, in addition to the Egyptian legislation number 64/2010 for combating human trafficking, Egypt has strengthened its body of law and national efforts in combating this crime.

Madame Chair,

We welcome all efforts exerted through the preparatory process for the Global Compact on Migration over this year, and for supporting the "High Level Panel of Experts Consultative Mechanism on Migration".

Guided by its experience, We expect expansion of the role and functions of IOM in the next years. We believe that IOM has an important role in the follow-up process on the outcomes, and implementation mechanisms, resulting from the Global Compact on Migration. We also would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate Morocco on hosting the Intergovernmental Conference which will adopt the Compact in December 2018.

International migration is a multi-dimensional global phenomenon, it generates economic social and cultural benefits to societies that involves. We should approach migration issues in a comprehensive manner to be able to maximize its benefits and minimize its negative impacts, we rely on the Organization to continue its message for promoting the role of migrants in the social and economic fields.

We believe that the International community can face the challenges imposed by irregular migration through tackling root causes of conflicts, promoting sustainable economic growth, creating proper environment for productive employment and decent work, implementing international commitments to support development efforts in countries of origin and transit.

At the end I would like to reiterate my country's support and willingness to work constructively on these issues in order to achieve our ultimate goal which is preserving Human Dignity.

Thank you