

## Egypt Statement 109<sup>th</sup> IOM Council

Thank you Chair,

Distinguished Ambassadors,

Egypt would like to congratulate Mr. Antonio Vitorino for the assumption of his new post and to wish him success in fulfilling his mandate. We have had several opportunities, to listen to the administrations' views and priorities for the upcoming period. Egypt would like to commend the Director-General's Report and express its support for the IOM's future endeavours, including in the areas of the proposed budget, new headquarters, internal and external audits and plans for the assisting States in implementing the GCM. Egypt also welcomes Uzbekistan as a new member and the IMF and International Emergency and Development Aid as observers.

Egypt values its strong partnership and bilateral cooperation with the IOM and highly appreciates the ongoing efforts of the IOM's Regional Office in the Middle East and North Africa, which Egypt has hosted since 1991. We hope that our cooperation will continue at its current robust levels.

As Egypt is assuming the Chairmanship of the African Union in 2019, under the theme of "Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa", Egypt also looks forward to further promoting cooperation between the AU and the IOM, particularly in the intersection between the fields of irregular migration and human trafficking on the one hand, and refugee situations on the other.

International migration is a global phenomenon, which requires concerted efforts and cooperation at the global level to make sure it remains safe, orderly, and humane. Egypt has a notable experience in the area of migration governance, as a country of origin, transit and destination. It generously hosts millions of migrants and refugees, while simultaneously millions of Egyptians reside as migrants abroad.

Egypt has exerted relentless efforts at the legislative and executive levels to combat illicit trafficking in persons and illegal migration. With the

belief that combating these phenomena requires a comprehensive approach, Egypt has taken important measures in effective border management, while simultaneously investing in capacity building and raising awareness. It is also engaged in multiple cooperation arrangements in Africa and with partners from the EU, including through the Khartoum process and the AU-Horn of Africa initiative.

Egypt played an important role in the elaboration of the GCM, the first internationally agreed normative and regulatory framework in the field of migration and looks forward to the adoption of the GCM at the Marrakesh Intergovernmental Meeting in December.

Although the text of the GCM does not meet all of our aspirations, Egypt believes that the final text succeeded in achieving a reasonable balance between competing principles and interests. Egypt welcomes the GCM's focus on international cooperation under objective 23 based on a proposal by the African group, as well as the establishment of a new capacity building mechanism, which we hope to benefit from. Egypt has also repeatedly welcomed the GCM's focus on expanding legal and safe pathways for migration, more flexible channels for the transfer of remittances, and the commitment to the human rights of migrants, including protecting them against violence and discrimination. The inclusion of robust follow-up and ambitious review mechanisms promises a leap forward in international cooperation on migration matters.

Egypt therefore believes the GCM is an important step in the right direction and we urge all States to work together to realize the full potential of this compact.

Egypt looks forward to the launching of the UN 'Migration Network', under IOM's coordination, after the Marrakesh conference, to support the implementation of the GCM by States. This is a challenging, yet vital responsibility and we are keen to support the IOM towards this end.

Thank you