

*Mission permanente de l'Etat de Libye
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et
des autres organisations internationales en Suisse*



البعثة الدائمة لِدولة ليبيا
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة في جنيف
والمنظمات الدولية الأخرى بسويسرا

Statement of the State of Libya to the IOM 109th session

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Mr. Chair
Mr. Director General
Distinguished ambassadors
Ladies and gentlemen;

At the outset , let me on behalf of my delegation extend our congratulations to His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia for being elected as the new chair of this IOM council.

Congratulations should be addressed as well to Mr. Antonio Vitorino for his election as Director General of the IOM, wishing to receive him warmly soon in Libya.

The state of Libya would like to align itself with the statement made by Morocco on behalf of the African group before this august council.

Mr. Chair;

The strategic location of my country at the Southern bank of the Mediterranean ,and its joint borders with many countries makes it like a transit bridge from Africa towards Europe, where the ongoing political instability opened window of opportunity to hundreds of thousands of irregular migrants who infiltrate the Southern borders on daily basis to reach their final European destinations.

Unfortunately, Libya lacks the most sophisticated technology, including patrol vehicles, drones and helicopters to monitor its borders and maintain its sovereignty.

The influx of irregular migrants to Libya will be a threat not only to Libya but to all its neighbouring countries, the Mediterranean, EU and the rest of the world.

As part of its humanitarian obligations, the government is trying to help those irregular migrants in Libya despite their illegal status, however the lack of financial resources and logistical potentials makes it difficult to do more.

As a transit country, Libya in no way can accommodate the flow of irregular migrants to its territory, and rejects, like all North African countries, attempts by some partners to make its land as disembarkation platform to the irregular migrants.

Libya considers, as always, that the process of migration in general should be addressed by the International Community as a whole, and the root causes of the irregular migration must be highlighted seriously at all levels under the umbrella of the UN with the engagement of all Member States, International Organizations and other Stakeholders.

My country declared, more than once, that adopting security dimensions alone could not be taken as the only strategy to tackle the issue of migration. In this regard, Libya made it clear that establishment of development projects and launching economic investments in the countries of origin will enable millions in Africa and all over the world to take the choice of staying and working in their homelands rather than moving abroad to enjoy their human dignity and fundamental rights together with their families.

In the context of the GCM, Libya commends the sincere efforts by Morocco and other partners to pave the way before adoption of the text later in Marrakech.

In conclusion, Libya avails this occasion to reaffirm its full cooperation and constructive dialogue with the IOM, and its office in Libya.

Thank you