



The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt
To the United Nations Office & International Organizations in Geneva

STATEMENT OF EGYPT

DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SAMEH SHOUKRY

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT

**AT THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
COUNCIL**

(GENEVA, 27 – 30 NOVEMBER 2007)

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by congratulating the new members of the Bureau. I would like as well to take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to Ambassador AL-HAJJAJI of Libya and the members of her bureau for their excellent work during the past year. Let me also express our appreciation to Mr. Brunson McKINLEY the Director General for the

able manner in which he has been guiding the work of IOM. We also welcome Burundi and Vietnam as members of the Organization.

Egypt fully aligns itself with the statement made by Tunisia on behalf of the African Group. We welcome the Republic of Burundi and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as new members of the Organization. The new members will certainly contribute to strengthening cooperation on migration issues, and will be able to capitalize on the Organization's expertise and services. Allow me to also welcome Africa Recruit, 'Femme Africa Solidarite' and Refugee Education Trust as observers.

Mr. Chairman,

The first Session of the Global Forum on Migration and Development which took place in Brussels last July, after the convening of the the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York in September 2006, further confirmed that international migration, as a global and dynamic phenomenon, has moved to the top of national and international agendas, and that a new approach to migration which squarely moves development into the migration debate has been established. We look forward to a successful second session of the Global Forum next year in Manila which would address in a more focused manner the human rights of migrants as well as ways and means of minimizing the negative impact of international migration such as the brain drain. While the Global Forum is a states-led process, it should draw on the expertise and experience of member organizations of the Global

Migration Group and in ,particular, the International Organization for Migration.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt welcomes the adoption by the Special Council last June of the IOM Strategy which was a significant step in updating and clarifying the role, direction and priorities of the Organization. The Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, which was established in the framework of the Strategy, is expected to contribute to greater efficiency in the way the organization addresses budget issues and their linkages to the programmes and policies of the Organization. The enlargement of the 1035 facility, pursuant to the new strategy, in order to increase funding for projects in developing countries, was also a positive step.

We appreciate the efforts of the Director General and the Administration to address the interests expressed by the African Group to increase funding of projects in the Budget for Africa, the recruitment and promotion of African nationals in the Organization, and establishing an IOM Mission with Regional Functions in Central Africa. We look forward to continuing the dialogue with the Director General and the Administration in order to more effectively address these and other issues, including the proposal for establishing a capacity building centre in Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

As to Item 14 of the Agenda on "Procedures for the Election of the Director General and Deputy Director General: Elements to Enhance Transparency", it is ⁱⁿour view that the consultations that have taken place so far on this issue have been insufficient to allow for agreement on ^{it}these procedures ~~during the present Session of the Council~~. Further informal consultations after the present Session of the Council will be

necessary in order to thoroughly study this important matter. *In that context we recognize the invaluable efforts of the Chair in engaging all interested parties with a view to reaching consensus.*

We appreciate the Administration's efforts to address the issue of outstanding contributions to the Administrative part of the Budget, while maintaining sound financial management of the Organization.

Let me conclude by reiterating Egypt's interest in continuing to actively participate in deliberations and discussions with respect to IOM's policies and activities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
