

Statement by
H.E. Mohamed Kamel Amr
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Arab Republic of Egypt

100th Session of the IOM Council
December 6, 2011

Mr. Chairman,

His Excellency, William Lacy Swing, Director-General of the IOM

Distinguished Heads of Delegation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to participate in this important meeting, which coincides with the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the International Organization for Migration. I would like to seize this opportunity to extend my congratulations to all IOM staff members for their achievements over the last 60 years of service. I would also like to welcome the new ~~new~~ members of the Organization, who are participating in this Council for the first time.

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Since its inception in 1951, the IOM has been a key player in the field of migration. It succeeded, through its dedicated staff, in enhancing the international endeavors to ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need.

The organization has steadily grown in stature and membership and has ^{been} positioned itself as the leading international agency acting to advance the understanding of migration issues, encourage economic and social development and promote respect for the human rights of migrants.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt highly values the IOM's efforts to coordinate humanitarian responses to emergency situations. During the Libyan crisis, the concerted and timely efforts of the IOM, as well as UNHCR, averted an immanent humanitarian catastrophe that threatened the lives and well-being of tens of thousands of migrant workers in Libya, including thousands of our fellow Egyptians. Hence, I would like to seize this opportunity to extend the gratitude of the Egyptian Government to both organizations for their invaluable assistance during the crisis.

Mr. Chairman

Egypt, a point of origin, transit and destination of migration, believes that migration can and does contribute to development in both countries of origin and destination. At the same time, and given the recent changing patterns and complex motives of migration, we believe that effective migration management strategies could not be achieved without adopting a wider perspective based on understanding the dire economic difficulties and pressing priorities facing developing countries as well as their people.

Furthermore, we have to emphasize the need to observe and maintain the delicate balance between the sovereign right of states to manage the movement of migrants crossing their borders on one hand, and acknowledging the aspiration of people to migrate and seek new ways and means to improve the quality of their lives on the other.

In this context, Egypt urges all stakeholders to show their utmost flexibility in negotiating matters pertaining to the movement of migrants from developing countries, including trade and development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt stresses the need to constantly enhance the IOM's operational and emergency capacity in order to provide the organization with the necessary resources to address migration challenges. In this regard, I would like to reiterate Egypt's support for the establishment of the Migration Emergency Fund Mechanism. We believe that such a mechanism would effectively enhance the ability of the organization to rapidly respond to future migration crisis. Egypt also supports the budget and human resources reforms initiated by the Director-General.

Finally, I wish to refer to the pending amendments to the IOM Constitution stipulated in the Council's Resolution 997, and inform the audience that the Egyptian Government shall consult the new Parliament regarding the possible ratification of these amendments.

In conclusion, the 60th anniversary of the IOM is an opportune time to reflect on the future role of the organization and the growing challenges facing migrants and migration at large. On its part, Egypt will continue its tireless efforts to assist the organization in fulfilling its mandate.

Thank you.