

SUDAN

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

Since I take the floor for the first time, allow me to congratulate you upon your election to this post. My thanks and appreciation go equally to the other members on the podium.

I would like to recognize that my delegation has benefited a lot from the views, initiatives and, as well, policies and measures expressed by many speakers on the issue of migration and its cross-cutting relationships within domestic communities, governments and bodies both at the national, regional and international levels. It is that kind of exchange of views and experience that my government sought when we decided to join the membership of this august organization and engaged into an active partnership through signing an MOU (memorandum of understanding) and a Plan of Action that we had successfully arrived at during the recent visit of the IOM Director-General to my country last August 2004. These documents embodied a wide spectrum of issues ranging from IDPS, refugees, migrants, both Sudanese and foreigners, as well as their impact on the economy, development; security and human protection. This is why it warranted the establishment of a General Secretariat for the Sudanese working abroad under the direct supervision of the Presidency and the Council of Ministers in a view that the wide magnitude of the cross-cutting issues could only be managed and coordinated by the presidency.

Mr. Chairman,

My country faces a similar situation to that faced by most other members, be it: management, challenges, opportunities precipitated by migrants. However, we in Sudan face a unique case. We believe that most of our colleagues here do know and appreciate the particular circumstances which we encounter: problems of IDPS, Sudanese expatriates, migrants from neighboring countries crossing national borders etc..... are just few examples to cite.

However, above all these challenges: there is the requirements to move from a transitional period of internal conflict and an economy under stress to a stage of post-conflict situation with a stable and progressing economy, which we envisage by the end of this month when a comprehensive peace agreement will be completely accomplished. This entails a productive partnership with all member states represented here besides the IOM secretariat.

The challenge that stands ahead: is how to incorporate our migrants and expatriates in this national endeavour in planning for the post-conflict era,

setting the main priorities of re-construction, re-habilitation and national reconciliation and development.

Derivative from this is how member states and the IOM will come to our aid? Issues of capacity-building, training, incorporating our special needs in the IOM coming programs and budgets? and above all: what plans and arrangements could be offered to solicit technical support and generate the required resources from prospective donor countries and international institutions.

Mr. Chairman,

I hope these broad lines of thoughts may constitute a road-map for our mutual co-operation that could be creatively linked to the on-going process – the JAM (joint Assessment Mission) internationally co-led by the world Bank and the UNDP to meet Sudan needs in the post-conflict period with the earnest support of Norway, the European Union and the US and the Arab League and Arab Funds, who are actively preparing for a donor conference on Sudan to be convened in Oslo coming February or March 2005.

The national report on Sudan peace needs encompasses 8 major clusters, namely: production cluster, reform and capacity-building, infrastructure, economic policy and management, basic services (health and education), governance and rule of law, and livelihood and human protection, and lastly the information cluster. Yet the migration dimension constitutes a major component of all these clusters; be it the capacity-building, governance, policy and management, the impact of migration on the development or health, and security. This in short, clearly indicates that there is a very wide-range of areas for the IOM and member-states to engage with Sudan in this major endeavour.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson and colleagues for your attentive follow-up.