

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Wafaa Bassim

Permanent Representative

Arab Republic of Egypt,

101 session of the IOM Council

29 November 2012, Geneva

Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman

Allow me first to congratulate the new chairman of the council HE. Mr. Abdul Hannan Ambassador of Bangladesh, and I would like to assure him our support during his chairmanship. Also allow me to thank HE. Ambassador Strohal for the excellent job during his tenure. I would also like to align ourselves with the Statement of the African Group that was delivered yesterday by HE Mr. Delmi Ambassador of Algeria

Mr. Chairman

It gives me a great pleasure to participate in this meeting that is taking place while we are witnessing a greater role of the International Organization for Migration, which has become a key player in the international arena towards the realization of human dignity since its establishment in 1951.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new members of the IOM, it is an outcome of the sincere efforts of the Director General and his staff.

The IOM has resumed its strength over the past few years, under the leadership of Mr. William Swing, assuming great responsibilities and shouldering heavy burdens, which undoubtedly proved that its role is central in today's world. I stress on that aspect, as migration, is an issue related to economic development and democracy.

Mr. Chairman

I would like to underline the efficiency that we have witnessed in the past 4 years due to the major reforms of IOM. These reforms have shown that the organization is speedily adapting to the current world order and situation. I would like to seize the opportunity to express the Egypt's full support to the IOM regional office in Cairo; we have observed the braveness of the staff in dealing with critical situations in an efficient and timely manner especially during the most recent cases that involved Egypt during the Libyan crises. In this regard, I convey the appreciation of the Egyptian people and its Government for its cooperation with the Egyptian authorities at all levels.

Mr. Chairman,

Today's world has been witnessing changing patterns and complex motives of migration, such as migration from North to South and from South to South, a very unusual pattern but its adding more pressure on developing countries.

Nevertheless, migration shall remain to be central for cementing the necessary bridges between nations pertaining to cultures, trade, development and democracy. Thus, we think that the IOM should put some emphasis on dealing with respect to different cultures, rituals and religions especially in times when they are not tolerated and easily disrespected.

Mr. Chairman,

I truly believe that pledges and contributions of member states have to reflect their support to its role and relevant activities. In this context, it is highly important to avoid earmarking the financial contributions for providing larger space for the organization to respond to the needs and requirements due to

changing circumstances, particularly where emergency situations emerge, and I would like to highlight the Egyptian support of the IOM Development Fund Mechanism and the role of IOM in the build up process to the UN High level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013. (I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Director for her exhaustive work on the IOM Migration Crises Operational Framework) .

Mr. Chairman,

In sum, developing responsive migration policies need our cooperation to address a set of challenges, namely the principle of respect for sovereignty of States, and the response to the aims of individuals seeking migration for better lives and improving their capacities. Consequently, there is a need for a comprehensive dialogue aiming at addressing all aspects of migration including the causes of irregular migration and human trafficking.

I am fully confident that while preparing for the organization's 65th anniversary in 2016 we need to consider that the trends of

global migration will still be mixed and from all directions, hence we should prepare ourselves to a very different pattern and look for more innovative ideas (such as the ideas brought up yesterday by HE Ambassador of Kenya), such ideas can only be reached through the ongoing debates where the IOM plays a pivotal role.

Thank you