

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Amr Ramadan

Permanent Representative

Arab Republic of Egypt

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Thank you Mr. Chairman

I would like to align ourselves with the Statement of the African Group that was delivered by His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Botswana.

Egypt would like to express its appreciation to all efforts that we have witnessed in the past year by the director General and his sincere and dedicated team.

Mr. Director General, we were very happy to welcome you in Cairo last month and in that regard we would like to express our appreciation for the successful partnership and close cooperation with the Egyptian government over the past 25 years. It was a good opportunity for the officials to discuss with you the future of IOM's cooperation with Egypt and in the region.

It was also a good opportunity for the Egyptian officials to discuss IOM matters with the Chair of the council the Permanent Representative of Peru Ambassador Chavez Basagoitia during his visit to Cairo last February.

IOM's role is crucial in today's world, the issue of mixed migration and the issue of who is a migrant and who is a refugee is becoming more and more important in today's world, however this issue is not very clear in most of the world. Egypt has always called for the need to engage in a comprehensive dialogue and cooperation aiming at addressing irregular migration, mixed migration and human trafficking in the right context.

In that regard my government actively participated in the AU regional Conference on Human trafficking and smuggling in the horn of Africa that took place in Khartoum last month - co organized by the IOM- where the four concerned countries requested the IOM as well as the UNHCR to work as the

secretariat for this initiative, which proves the credibility the organization enjoys even with non state members.

Mr. Chairman,

We are aware that there is an ongoing negative sentiment when it comes to migration, and we are ready to cooperate with IOM to improve such a sentiment that is always linked to migration and we call on the international community to engage in a dialogue to look at all the positive aspects of migration and work together on maximizing its effect.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to express our appreciation to the efforts exerted by the IOM to lower the cost of migration, remittance transfer and recruitment costs. We also commend the activities and support of the Migration Fund to member states.

Last but not least, I would like to seize the opportunity to express Egypt's full support to the IOM regional office in Cairo and its activities.

Thank you