

106 Session of the IOM Council

Statement of The Arab Republic of Egypt

by

H.E. Ambassador Amr Ramadan

Permanent Representative of Egypt

Agenda Item: General Debate

25 November, 2015

Geneva

Thank you Mr. Chairman

Egypt aligns itself with the Statement of the African Group, and wishes to express appreciation to all efforts exerted during the past year by the Director General and his dedicated team. We would like to commend the report of the Director General which reflects the work done in the fields of migration management, migration health, immigration and border management, labor migration and human development.

We would also like to express our dedication to the strong partnership and close cooperation with IOM that was established over the past years and was lately reflected in the successful visit of DG Swing to Cairo last October, and his meetings with the Prime Minister of Egypt and Ministers of: Foreign Affairs, Justice, Interior Affairs, Labor and Migration which availed the opportunity to discuss future cooperation between IOM and Egypt.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that IOM's role is crucial in today's world. The issue of mixed migration is becoming more and more important. Egypt has always pointed to 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 this regard the Egyptian Government hosted several

meetings that tackled these issues including the first meeting of the steering committee of Khartoum Process in Sharm Elsheikh in April 2015. the Second Regional Meeting for the African Union/Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants in September 2015, which adopted Sharm Elsheikh statement that called for addressing root causes of irregular migration and secondary movement of Refugees.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to seize this opportunity to highlight two main issues of concern that the world has recently witnessed in the field of migration:

First, the confusion between asylum seeking and mixed migration phenomenon. Recently Europe has witnessed an influx of both refugees and migrants. It is inconceivable to deal with both issues in a single context if we want to address their root causes which is different from the economic and Legal Aspects, and methods and means of their management.

Second, the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East resulted in millions of refugees and migrants where neighboring countries took the burden of hosting and accommodating them, while some other countries are currently showing reluctance in sharing such a burden.

It is our conviction that collective work should be done in order to face the serious challenges posed by flows of those huge numbers of asylum seekers

and migrants, under the principle of common responsibility and burden sharing. We believe that sustainable economic growth, promoting proper environment for productive employment and decent work, implementing international commitments to support the development efforts in countries of origin and transit, as well as technical support for developing countries to contribute to their development strategies to face such challenges are possible elements to help putting us on the right path to face this problem.

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. We also commend the activities and the support of the Migration Fund to member states. And express our wishes for successful future discussions for the DG on the process of improving the legal basis of the relationship between IOM and the United Nations.

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

Thank you