



Statement

By

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At the outset, Mr. Chairperson, allow me to congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your well-deserved election to preside over the work of this Council.

My delegation would also like to thank the Director General for his report.

My delegation associates itself with the statement of the African Group.

Mr. Chairperson,

The presentation of the report by the Director General yesterday revealed that the world continues to struggle to respond to the large-scale mobility of varying combination of migrants. It would not be an overstatement to dub this year as another “year of migration” in which the situation continues to pose greater challenge to the international community in general and to the IOM, in particular.

Despite the complexity of the problem and the troubling global trend, my delegation believes that the international community is still afforded with the opportunity to work collectively to mitigate and address this colossal development challenge. 2015 was a triumph for multilateralism in which the international community achieved consensus on critical global outcomes which clearly charted the course of our development in the years to come. These new global development outcomes have also given due attention to issues that were forgotten for too long. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represents an important milestone for IOM whereby migration and mobility are now explicitly referred to in the six of the 17 SDGs. This coupled with the signing of the IOM-UN Agreement

which enabled UN to have its own migration agency after 7 decades no doubt puts the issue high in the global development agenda.

My delegation has learnt from the Director General's report that the Organization has accomplished important results in these difficult times, including the adoption and application of the Migration Governance Framework which helps to address migration challenges through capacity building, project development, planning and reporting. This we believe helps to show the work of the Organization in a more results-oriented manner.

My delegation also appreciates the reference made to the work which IOM is undertaking with regards to the nexus between migration and climate change. The Paris Agreement adopted last year, no doubt, presented a far greater opportunity to raise awareness on the role of migrants and migration in climate change adaptation and prevention strategies. The establishment of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division is a testimony to the increasing importance IOM attaches to this extremely important issue. We believe the work of IOM on migration, the environment and climate change which include providing advice on how migration can be part of national adaptation plans and how to incorporate migrants in disaster risk reduction plans should be further strengthened. As Ethiopia now assumes the presidency of the Climate vulnerably Forum for the next two years, we believe the Forum has much more to benefit from IOM's activities in areas of migration and migrated related issues to support its advocacy work.

Mr. Chairperson,

The task bestowed on IOM for the next two years is enormous. As a leading agency on the issue of migration, its contributions in providing support for

the development of a global compacts on migration and refugees are critical. My delegation in this regard welcomes the cooperation between IOM and the UNHCR to develop these global compacts using mechanisms, institutions and expertise which they have at their disposals.

As I alluded earlier, the international community achieved series of important agreements in 2015. The Sendai Framework, the Third United Nations Conference on FfD which my country had the honour to host last year, Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement are all critical in supporting our efforts of achieving sustainable development. In the same vein, the development of the global compacts, we believe, greatly benefit from both the processes and outcomes of these key global public policies and their implementation. In our view, this also fosters greater partnership and strengthen global policy coordination to address the challenges surrounding migration.

Today, Ethiopia hosts over 750,000 refugees which is expected to increase in the coming months. The influx of refugees is creating a huge burden on the already overstretched programmes. Shortage of basic services, search for alternative energy and resource constraints have the potential for competition and associated conflicts between the refugees and host communities. These challenges, we believe, need to receive the appropriate attention of the international community and the provision of additional resources to enable Ethiopia address these challenges is critical.

My delegation also commends the IOM for its assistance in helping stranded Ethiopians return back home safely from different eastern migratory routes. It goes without saying that there is an urgent need to apprehend migrant traffickers and people smugglers. Efforts to inform the would-be irregular migrants of the hazards of irregular migration, while at the same time

supporting them in identifying alternatives to irregular migration needs to be enhanced.

In concluding, Mr. Chairperson, my delegation would like to express its appreciation for the support of the IOM and assures the Organization of Ethiopian Government commitment to continue to work closely to address the challenges surrounding migration.

I thank you.