



Statement of the head of delegation of the State of Eritrea to the 108th Session of IOM Mr. Adem Osman, First Secretary, Chargé de Affaires a. i. of the Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva.

28, November – 01 December, 2017

Geneva, 29 November 2017

Thank you Madame Chair and congratulations on your election.

Eritrea aligns itself with the statement made by Ghana on behalf of the Africa Group and would like to add this statement in its national capacity.

My delegation welcomes Cuba, the Cook Island and Kuwait for joining the IOM as new members in their respective status.

Chair, we have listened with satisfaction to the remarks of current President of the United Nations General Assembly, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for International Migration and the Director General of IOM. All the statements show the challenges ahead and reminded us of the collective commitments that need to be taken.

Human mobility within their boundaries and beyond is as old as human history and has been crucial in the societal transformation that had shaped the present global structure. However, the drastic changes in magnitude, motive and the risk involved constitute colossal force and challenge of our global reality that need to be regulated in order to have safe, orderly and regular migration.

Historically, the influx of migration has been to the global South and benefitted societies in sharing skills, culture, technologies and creating the necessary wealth. While the move by in large, still remains towards the global south the phenomenon has become multifaceted in recent years. However, global response to this daunting challenge is reactive, fragmented and lacks collective vision. The deplorable news that we heard few days before the beginning of the current session is a timely reminder that requires appropriate collective response.

As an affected country, Eritrea remains engaged in dialogue with all relevant stakeholders while actively participating in all regional and international initiatives to bring an end to illegal migration. On the other hand, the Government has long recognized the contribution of the diaspora in the political, economic, social and cultural affairs of their country. The policy is to maintain the link of Eritreans to their country of origin.

Global Compact on Migration

The Global Compact for Migration should aim at enhancing international cooperation and solidarity for a well-managed human mobility to the benefit of migrants, countries of origin and destination. In our view, the following three goals should underpin the Global Compact for Migration.

1. Reducing the need for fatal journeys through addressing the root causes of migration and combating smuggling of migrants;
2. Recognizing the vulnerability of migrants in transit and countries of destination. Protecting their human rights and fundamental freedoms;
3. Recognizing and enhancing the contribution of migrants for countries of origin and destination; and reducing the risk associated with migration for countries of origin and destination.

Cooperation with IOM

In the area of cooperation with IOM, the Government of the State of Eritrea is considering the following four-time bound practical programs.

1. **Diaspora Engagement:** Assist the Department of Eritreans Abroad to leverage contributions of qualified nationals abroad and strengthen their linkages and relationships with diaspora communities in major countries of destination for Eritreans for the sustainable socioeconomic development of the country;
2. **Labour Migration:** Contribute to providing pre-departure orientation for Eritrean migrants seeking employment in the Gulf States as well as develop policy and legal frameworks for enhanced labour migration management in the medium- to long-term programs;
3. **Migration Profile:** Collect quantitative and qualitative data to identify migration needs, priorities, trends, and interests in order to develop targeted programmatic interventions in the area of migration and contribute to evidence-based policy-making; and
4. **Immigration and Border Management:** Improve border management and modernize migration services at borders with a view to facilitating regular migration and preventing/reducing irregular migration, human trafficking, and migrant smuggling.

Finally Madame Chair, the fight against irregular migration is not only about developing a system that addresses the need to safe, regular and orderly migration but also a timely organized combat to migrant smugglers and human traffickers. International response in combating smuggling of migrants has not, however, been commensurate to the level of the danger this transnational organized crime poses for individuals and states. This is despite the fact that for over a decade member states of the United Nations have identified smuggling of migrants as a crime that violates human rights, hampers socio-economic development and encroaches on the sovereignty of states. The investigation by Italian authorities on the collusion between non-governmental organizations who ostensibly rescue migrants in the Mediterranean Sea and smugglers and trafficker reveals the need for a better international cooperation.

I thank you.