



Statement of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation during the 108th session of the IOM

Geneva, 1 December 2017

Mrs Chairperson,

I would like to congratulate Chili, Ethiopia and Denmark for their election as members of the Bureau of this current session. Allow me also to extend my congratulations to the newly elected members and observers to the IOM, which is a real reflection of the expansion of scope of cooperation that contributes to consolidating the international and multi-stakeholder partnership and collaboration in addressing migration issues.

I would like to specially congratulate the State of Kuwait, an important founding Member of OIC, for its adhesion as Observer to the IOM. A decision which goes in line with its leading role and sustained engagement in humanitarian assistance and resource mobilization for post conflict reconstruction in OIC Members States and elsewhere.

The comprehensive exposé of the Director General of IOM, has set the scene and reflected meaningfully on the regional processes and consultations on a range of critical migration issues in view to providing useful guidance in the way ahead of the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration next year. Even though, the GCM will not be a binding document, it would certainly provide harmonized and well-grounded basis for adopting migration policies and mechanisms in line with the 2030 sustainable Development agenda.

The OIC has taken part in all thematic discussions and reaffirms here its engagement expressed during the New Summit to be an active partner in advancing national led migration policies with the respect of human rights and dignity of people who have chosen to move freely. In this regard, the OIC Secretary General, has invited more recently the International community to intensify its efforts in order to face the criminal gangs operating in the field of human trafficking, which is an obvious violation of International and Humanitarian Laws.

We are witnessing today more than ever the interconnectivity of our world. The large influx of migrants and refugees has led to the recognition that no country, alone can deal with this global issue. Even though the actual discussions on migration mostly turn around the need to find adapted solutions to challenges faced by people on move, we should not undermine the positive role that migration can bring in bridging cultures, civilizations and in providing economic and social benefits to migrants and to countries of origin and destination.

It has been reiterated in many time that the respect of human dignity of migrants and the need to combat xenophobia and discrimination is an important aspect of the international migration policy. Thus, the OIC is fully engaged to play its role in combatting the growing and toxic anti-migrant rhetoric and to highlight the benefits of migration for all societies. It is also the occasion here to underline the importance of integration and social cohesion which should be key elements in any comprehensive migration management policy.

In this regards, I would like to thank the IOM Director General and his team for having co-organized with two OIC specialized organizations, in Rabat in October 2017, an international workshop on youth in face of migration challenges, which was the occasion to underline the important role of youth in migration governance and in building bridges among societies.

I cannot miss also the opportunity to thank IOM and other UN agencies for their collaboration with the OIC core group of Ambassadors and OIC Delegation in Geneva in exploring ways to genuinely address the large scale and critical humanitarian and human rights situation of Rohingya, we are witnessing today.

In conclusion, allow me to stress again the leading role of IOM as UN specialized and well equipped organization in migration governance and management. We should therefore have trust on its continuous leadership to ensure that the Global Compact on Migration, to be agreed upon by Member States, would be an important policy tool for developing human rights based and comprehensive national, regional and international migration processes.

It is time more than ever to reinforce the international cooperation on migration issues but to also to build solid partnerships in tackling the roots causes that lead to forced migration and in promoting the development of migrants' potential and their economic, social and political added value role in the host societies.

I thank you