

*Mission Permanente
du Royaume du Maroc
Genève*



البعثة الدائمة
للمملكة المغربية
جنيف

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Statement of His Excellency Omar Zniber

African Group Coordinator

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of Morocco in Geneva*

*At the General Debate of the 109 Session of
IOM Council*

-On Behalf of the African Group-

CICG, 27-30 novembre 2018

Mr. Director General;
Mr. Chairperson;
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco would like to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

My delegation congratulates the new Chair of the IOM Council, the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia and thanks the former Chair the Permanent Representative of Chili for his efforts in chairing this Council.

We are gathered here today to discuss Migration, which is considered as one of the most important issues for our continent, especially on the eve of the adoption of a historical multilateral instrument: the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migrations, on 10-11 December 2018 in Marrakech.

The New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants carried an important political message, promoting a global and long-term vision of human mobility.

The Global Compact is the first comprehensive, global and non-binding agreement on human mobility containing a set of common principles on migration in all its dimensions;

As part of the implementation and monitoring of the Compact, IOM will have an important role to play. The pact will stimulate capacity building in the area of migration, providing for a framework and concrete measures, as well as facilitating migration and mobility in an orderly manner.

Indeed, the Global Compact is an opportunity to protect the rights of migrants and to preserve good governance around four fundamental principles: (i) Protection of the human rights of migrants; (ii) Facilitation of safe, orderly and regular migration; (iii) Reduction of the negative effects of forced migration; (iv) Response to the consequences of climate change on human mobility.

Mr. Director General;
Mr. Chairperson;
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Strengthening the legitimacy of the Pact will be through the proactive statements of the high-level delegations taking part in the Marrakech Conference,

which will contain messages expressing their commitments to the implementation of the Pact and the support of the UN network on migration.

Migration is perceived as a reality to manage. Its evolution will depend on the ability of states to manage this unavoidable social reality;

It is primordial that we all adopt this Pact, since no single member state will be able to face such a challenge on its own. Therefore, international cooperation will allow this process to come to a successful conclusion.

The African Group welcomes the establishment of the UN Network on Migration, to which IOM will play a central role of Secretariat and coordination. A wide consensus was reached on the terms of reference of the Network that will be validated by the UN Secretary General.

The African Group would like to express his full support to IOM in its new mandate, and will participate actively in the up-coming meetings of the UN network, to add the voice of Africa to the discussions around this important process.

Mr. Director General;

Mr. Chairperson;

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

There is no massive influx of migrants, since the latter account for only 3.4 per cent of the world population. African migration is essentially intra-African. Worldwide, migration accounts for less than 14 % of the population. As far as Africa is concerned, 4 out of 5 African migrants remain in the Continent. Migration does not impoverish host countries since 85% of migrants' incomes remain in those countries.

Dealing with this phenomenon, we need to keep in our minds that migration is a natural phenomenon, which is part of the solution, not of the problem. We should adopt a positive stance on the issue of migration by highlighting the humanistic rationale of shared responsibility and solidarity.

In the same vein, the African Agenda on Migration advocates an approach based on national policies, sub-regional coordination, a continental vision and international partnership.

As you can see, the African Agenda on Migration is based on the idea that we need to know the full range of dimensions involved in the migration phenomenon in order to understand it properly.

Such an approach presupposes a paradigm shift, an introspective and positive redefinition of migration as well as genuine political will on the part of States, which all have a vested interest in making migration as safe, legal and orderly as possible, seeing to it that human rights of all migrants are respected.

This Agenda should tend to make migration a lever for co-development, a pillar of South-South Cooperation and an instrument of solidarity.

To help achieve the above-mentioned goals, the setting up of an African Migration Observatory which will be based in Morocco is necessary, with the tasks to understand, anticipate and act. The Observatory will have the mission of developing observation and the exchange of information between African countries in order to promote controlled management of migration flows.

I thank you.

The Africa Group wishes to highlight that implementation of the GCM should be done in a manner that reinforces Africa's ongoing efforts of improving migration governance and realising continental integration within the context of its Agenda 2063. To this end, the Africa is already gearing itself to the implementation of the GCM. Last week, there were some discussions around the GCM during the 4th Pan African Forum on Migration. The forum brings together member states, civil society organisations, UN agencies and other stakeholders to discuss several facets of migration.

As a region we are soon to come up with modalities of implementing the GCM taking into account the existing regional and sub-regional frameworks on migration and the need to create synergies among the continental structures that deal with migration issues including linkages with the Regional Economic Communities.

It is also important for IOM to increase its support help Africa build capacity in areas such as migration policy development, data gathering and analysis including building effective partnership between governments and private sector as well as with civil society organisations.