

**DELEGATION PERMANENTE DE  
L'UNION AFRICAINE A GENEVE**



**PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE  
AFRICAN UNION IN GENEVA**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Ajay Kumar Bramdeo  
Permanent Observer of the African Union in Geneva**

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**Thank you Chairperson,**

On behalf of the AUC, allow me to begin by congratulating you and the Bureau on your election. We would also like to appreciate the outgoing Chair for his able leadership throughout 2018. Our congratulations is also extended to the newest members and observers on their admission to the IOM.

**Chairperson**

The AUC aligns itself to the statement delivered by Morocco on behalf of the African Group and would also like to contribute to the debate with a few additional remarks.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Mr Vitorino on his election to the post of Director General of IOM. DG, we are assured that your vast experience and knowledge of Migration issues will allow you to effectively address, in a positive and proactive manner, the multifarious challenges and opportunities that migration engenders. The African Union looks forward to continue strengthening its partnership with the IOM, under your leadership.

We would also like to pay tribute to your predecessor Ambassador Swing, for his commitment and energetic leadership during his tenure at the helm of the IOM. He has indeed left behind a formidable legacy.

**Chairperson,**

We thank the Director General for his comprehensive Report which reflects the pivotal position of IOM as the lead global organization on migration. This has been reaffirmed by IOM's role as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration in support of the GCM implementation, follow-up and review. The GCM represents a historic milestone in global convergence on migration governance. It will offer us an opportunity to strengthen cooperation and partnership in managing migration to harness its development potential for positive change, especially in the lives of migrants, wherever in the world they may choose to live and work. In this regard we hope that the spirit of compromise for the good of humanity will prevail in Marrakech and there will be universal adoption of the GCM.

**Finally Chairperson,**

2018 has been a significant year for the AU with the adoption of major flagship initiatives such as the Protocol on Free movement of Persons on the Continent and

the Continental Free trade Area. All of which aim at addressing the structural causes of irregular migration, whilst building the conditions for socio-economic development, peace and security on the continent.

We therefore encourage the DG to strengthen his engagement with the AU on issues of migration and mobility, within the context of the relevant AU decisions and policy frameworks, in particular the transformational and development-centred AU Agenda 2063.

**I thank you**