

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY GHANA AT THE 109TH IOM COUNCIL
SESSIONS; THURSDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 2018, GENEVA**

Mr. Chairman

Director General

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Before I proceed, kindly permit my delegation to associate itself with the African Group's statement, as delivered by the representative of Morocco on the first day of the 109th Council Sessions. The statement articulated quite clearly the African agenda for safe, orderly and regular migration and the continent's political will to optimise the benefits and, where necessary, address the challenges associated with migration, in accordance with international law. On that basis, I wish to make the following brief remarks:

Our journey towards the adoption of a politically binding Global Compact on Migration is a historic course which manifests our collective will to effectively manage and, ensure proper governance of the global phenomenon of migration. While it may be premature to pay tribute to

ourselves for having come this far, my delegation is encouraged by the progress made by the global community in responding to the demands contained in the New York Declaration for Migrants, which set in train the processes leading to the Compact. Contrary to the skepticism expressed since 19th September, 2016, when the Declaration was adopted, we are confident that the "360 degree" character of this unprecedented non-binding instrument will serve to guide national action on migration without compromising national security or undermining the sanctity and integrity of State sovereignty. At its core, the agreement underscores the centrality of human rights of migrants, irrespective of their migration status. The document, therefore, serves more as a reminder than an instructive manual to States about their obligation to uphold the God-given rights of migrants.

Against that backdrop, My delegation submits that the Global Compact delivers an exclusive opportunity for the world community to address the toxic narrative surrounding migration by giving emphasis to the connection between migration and development for both destination and sending States. After all, the uniqueness of the Sustainable Development Agenda is that it brings into sharp focus the migration-development nexus. Going forward, further empirical data

on the contribution of migrants to national development would have the merit of countering the negativity that migration evokes.

Mr. Chairman,

You cannot discuss the GCM without touching on its potential to engender partnerships for the purpose of designing and implementing mutually beneficial migration-related initiatives. As outlined in the final draft of the GCM, under objective 23, the adoption of the Compact implies that “we commit to support each other in the realisation of the objectives and commitments laid out” in the Compact. Given that migration presents global challenges and opportunities, it is recommended that we leverage the momentum generated by the Compact to build the consensus needed to improve the governance of migration. This point was aptly expressed in the Director General’s report and subsequent statements by member States. And prior to this Council Session, precisely at the just ended International Dialogue on Migration, we witnessed that partnership is, indeed, an overarching theme of every migration discourse, as participants at the IDM used the occasion to exchange views on the existing and possible partnerships for capacity building. Hopefully, the same spirit of partnership will define

our decisions and practical steps during the implementation phase of the GCM.

That said, please allow me to acknowledge, with great satisfaction, the important partnerships Ghana and civil society have forged over the years to address trafficking and smuggling and other migration related issues. We welcome the partnerships with civil society and the private sector and hope that such partnerships will help facilitate the capacity development of officials managing our borders.

Still on cooperation and partnership, I wish to state that Ghana is pleased with its partnership with the IOM and the European Union within the framework of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Africa. Last week, representatives of various departments and agencies of Ghana met with the IOM and EU officials to further deliberate on the elements of the framework and the standard procedures for return and reintegration. Such partnerships reflect our country's resolve to take advantage of the GCM to enter into bilateral and multilateral partnerships that will strategically position us to redeem our obligations to migrants and reap benefits accruing from the migration experience. We are, therefore, grateful to the IOM for

demonstrating an equal interest in exploring partnership opportunities for the development of the capacity of our consular officers and emergency service providers. This will certainly enable them provide the desired support to migrants in crisis situations. We are particularly grateful for the workshop organized in Accra earlier this year to discuss the Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative. The workshop and the dissemination of the guidelines for the protection of migrants in crisis enlighten our agencies on responding to the vulnerabilities and needs of migrants caught up in conflicts or disasters.

Mr. Chairman

Director General

Allow me to use this opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation to the Council for extending Ghana's mandate as External Auditor of the IOM. The decision of the Council demonstrates trust and confidence in the work being done by the Auditor General of Ghana and his team. We accept this new mandate hoping that the secretariat, under the leadership of Mr. Vitorino, will continue to lend its valuable support to the team of auditors.

In closing, we congratulate Ethiopia for assuming the leadership of the Council and the Director General for taking up this challenging role at such an important juncture in the global migration discourse. My delegation shall remain in full support of your stewardship.