



**Statement of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
109th session of the IOM**

Geneva, 30 November 2018

Mr. Chair,

I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of this Council and Denmark, Philippines and Mexico on their election as members of the current Bureau.

Allow me to congratulate as well the State of Uzbekistan, a leading Member of the OIC, for its adherence as member of the IOM and other entities for joining IOM as Observers.

In addition, it is my pleasure to welcome Mr. Antonio Vitorino as new Director General of IOM and wish him all the best in his mission.

The comprehensive exposé of the Director General of the IOM provided us with a clear vision from where we stand on migration issues and what would be the way ahead for a better governance of migration.

The soon to be adopted Global Compact on Migration in Marrakech, is a translation of the positive engagement of States and other partners to address comprehensively migration issues and challenges and to shape the global agenda for orderly, Safe and voluntary migration.

This landmark document, even though not binding, is the result of an inclusive approach to address drivers of migration, assist migrants on their journey and find durable and humanistic solutions to problems resulting from migratory processes.

The OIC welcomes the shared recognition of the linkage between migration governance and the sustainable development goals. Addressing root causes of migration in relation with the 2030 development agenda is a guarantee to adopt inclusive and integrated human approach of the development.

It is also a way to ensuring equal access to various social-economic opportunities at local and national level and to maintaining well-being of persons within their communities of origin, transit and destination.

Mr. Chair,

Migration either, forced or as a free choice, should not in any case be the cause of human rights violations, human trafficking or any other inhuman or degrading treatment against migrants during migratory routes and within host communities.

Unfortunately, today trends show that migration is growingly a forced and inevitable choice by many because of natural or man-made crises. This is particularly true for women, children and unaccompanied minors.

Therefore, it is important as the Director General highlighted in his opening statement, to adopt tailored protective measures during emergencies and in longer-term responses to minimize the negative consequences on vulnerable groups.

The OIC is equally convinced that the humanitarian development and peace nexus is an approach that can address simultaneously triggers of vulnerabilities and long-term development and peace challenges.

The increase of negative narratives and restrictive migration policies in various parts of the world alert us on the alarming climate of hatred, discrimination and xenophobia against persons on the move.

However, the call for tolerance and coexistence in our interconnected world has been a strong pillar of GCM. It is encouraging that two years of negotiation process on the GCM showed the engagement of many Member States and other stakeholders to provide uniformed human rights based guidance on migration governance that put Migrants at the center.

In conclusion, allow me, Mr Chair, to command the leading role of the IOM as a UN related agency and as Coordinator of the UN network on migration.

I thank you