

**State by H.E. Ambassador Ms. Saja MAJALI,
Permanent Representative of Jordan
In the General Debate – 109th Session of the IOM Council
Geneva, 29th' November 2018**

Mr. Chairperson,
Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

First and foremost, on behalf of the delegation of Jordan, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson as well as the other members of the Bureau, the two Vice-Chairpersons their Excellencies the Ambassadors of (Denmark and the Philippines) and the Rapporteur, Her Excellency the Ambassador of (Mexico). I wish you and the Bureau all the success in your upcoming tasks and assure you all of my delegation's full support.

Allow me to also to thank the outgoing chairman and bureau for their efforts throughout the year in successfully steering our work.

My delegation welcomes Uzbekistan's membership, as well as the two newly admitted observers, the IMF and International Emergency and Development Aid.

Mr. Chairperson,

This 109th IOM Governing Council Session marks the first Council session for our newly elected Director General H.E. Mr. Antonio Vitorini. My delegation therefore takes the opportunity to congratulate him once more and wish him success in executing his mandate. Our relations with IOM date back to 1994 when it had first opened an Office in Amman and have continued to grow over the years, especially under the tenure of outgoing Director General Ambassador Swing, whose strong leadership and commitment we salute. IOM's support has been vital over the past several years, especially with regards to the humanitarian response. The IOM office in Jordan has also assisted immensely, and we would like to express our tremendous thanks for their cooperation and support.

Today we look forward to work on further strengthening our relations and partnership with IOM under its new Director General Antonio Vitorini and look forward for continued collaboration.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have listened closely to the report of the Director General, who presented us with a summary of IOM's work in 2018 focusing on what it has been doing to support migrants, emergency response as well as longer term responses.

His report also focused on IOM's role in informing the debate on migration and what to expect from IOM from the next decade including what it will need to deliver and what 2019 will bring.

My delegation thanks the Director General for his report and appreciates his vision and the very important directions proposed. We have forwarded his report to capital and we look forward to future deliberations here at the IOM on many of the issues mentioned.

Mr. Chairperson,

The role of IOM in today's emergencies is invaluable. The fact that that in 2017 alone it provided humanitarian assistance in more than 79 countries, and responded to seven internal Level 3 emergencies is impressive and must be applauded.

IOM's continued support to the Middle East and North Africa remains fundamental, including in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, Libya and Yemen, four countries designated as level three emergencies. Projects and programs being undertaken in this context through IOM's crisis response and community stabilization efforts and its assistance to the internally displaced persons are indeed important for creating conditions for the restoration of normal social, economic and political life for longer-term development and stability.

We also welcome IOM's Refugee resettlement program including from Jordan. Repatriation and resettlement both serve as an effective international protection tool, while providing a durable solution for those in the most vulnerable situations, refugees and trafficked victims and irregular migrants all alike.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since 2011, Jordan has had to cope with an enormous challenge of receiving and hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees. IOM has been instrumental in helping us address the numerous challenges. It has worked closely with the relevant Jordanian ministries and authorities, for example including on supporting Border Management and capacity building where we look forward for further collaboration with IOM.

IOM has also assisted our health authorities in addressing tuberculosis and other diseases such as polio and measles through vaccinations, routine immunization, diagnostic consultations and treatment for Syrians in Jordan. Here also, we look forward for more support for the efforts of the Jordanian Ministry of Health (MoH) to reduce the transmission, morbidity and mortality of Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV in the country including by undertaking screenings and providing medications, diagnostic equipment and laboratory consumables.

IOM has also assisted in providing safe transportation to school for refugee children in Azraq camp.

Mr. Chairperson,

Much has been mentioned during this Council session on the Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. References were also made to the compact in some of the reports presented to this session including to those we adopted.

Jordan agree that this compact is a non-binding instrument. Our position with its regards has been voiced during our deliberations. It has been clear and was formed on the following:

First, we are not ready to accept anything in the compact that may extend or redefine the international obligations we have legally assumed through ratification or accession to treaties and conventions, or that may seek to commit us to international instruments to which we are not party, or that may seek to override the reservations we have placed on certain instruments mentioned in the text.

In other words, our reading of the text and potential application would only be in line with the international obligation's we assumed and our relevant national legislation.

We also made clear that we do not accept any clear or implied change or extension of legal definitions or scope of application of rights to entities that had not been initially subjects for protection under certain regimes, through for example trying to blur boundaries between refugees and migrants, as both are different in status and are regulated by different legal regimes.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, we thank IOM for all its support and look forward for partnership and collaboration.