

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

At the outset, allow me congratulate the incoming Chair of the IOM Council, the distinguished Permanent Representative of Ethiopia and thanks the outgoing Chair the distinguished Permanent Representative of Chili for his outstanding leadership. We also extend a warm welcome to the newly elected IOM Director General in his first IOM Council meeting and would like to assure him of our support as he starts his mandate. My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered Morocco on behalf of the African Group.

As we gather today, migration has been elevated to the top of global agenda, which while well deserved given unprecedented high levels of global mobility, we should not forget that there is no alternative to home grown and regional solutions to the migration challenges of our world. A context based approach tailored to the needs of every country and region is at the essence of any effective fixing to the migratory complexities of our time and best suits our needs to have migration works for all

The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) is the world first ever negotiated document on migration which should not be missed, and adopted early next month in Marrakech, Morocco. Sudan has been positively engaged in the negotiation process guided by the african common position on the Global Compact for Migration, and would like take this opportunity to commend the Government of Morocco for hosting this important meeting in Africa.

As a country that hosted the preparatory meetings for the “Khartoum Process” which was established as a partnership framework to well managed migration out of the Horn of Africa, Sudan would work with all UN member states to support the successful implementation of the Global Migration Compact (GCM) to truly become an actionable agenda for migration, and for IOM to have a central role to play in that respect.

The Global Compact will support capacity building in the area of migration, through innovative solutions and integrated and concrete measures. IOM role is particularly important not only as the coordinator and secretariat of the UN migration Network but also as the custodian of the Capacity Building Mechanism, meant to promote and support good governance of migration.

The African Union at its last Summit in January 2018, endorsed the establishment of an African migration operation centre in Khartoum, and we would like to renew Sudan's commitment to fully support the establishment of the centre and welcome the support of donor countries and IOM to offer both financial and technical assistance at the earliest.

Sudan, would also like to appreciate the support of IOM to migration management capacity in Sudan, and look forward to see more speedy and timely execution of projects, two of which funded by IOM Development Fund (IDF). We call on IOM Director General to strengthen IOM's Office in Khartoum, and as host country we will provide full support to the successful work of IOM in Sudan.

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We would like to share the concern that many of you have in the face of growing negative migration narratives in many parts of the world. The GCM and GCR are likely to be easy targets to aim at in the midst of expanding xenophobia and intolerance especially towards migrants and refugees.

In dealing with this challenge, we need to keep in our minds that migration is a natural phenomenon, which throughout our shared human history has been positive and constructive in many cases. We should all take on a firm stance against demonizing migration by highlighting the positive contributions of migrants and correct the migration record.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to announce that Sudan has a candidate for the post of IOM's deputy director general, and was the first African country to move on and present the candidature of Mr. Ashraf El Nour for consideration by the Election Committee of the African Union (AUC).

Mr. Ashraf El Nour has a long and distinguished career with IOM since 1992, and currently is the director of IOM's office to UN in New York and in that capacity he provided first hand support to IOM's entry to UN, actively engaged with both the UN and its Member States in New York in the lead to the adoption of both the New York Declaration (sep 2016) and the Global Compact for Migration (dec 2018).