



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

**Statement delivered by H.E. Amb. Gian Lorenzo CORNADO,**

**Permanent Representative,**

**at the 110<sup>th</sup> Session of IOM Council**

**(Geneva, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019)**

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Mr. Chair, Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Excellences, distinguished Delegates, Italy aligns itself with the statements made by the EU Delegation on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Firstly, allow me to congratulate Ambassador Morten Jespersen for being elected as new Chair of the Council and to the others newly elected members of the Bureau. A warm welcome goes to the Republic of Lebanon as new Member State and to the new Observer, the International Commission on Missing Persons, for joining the IOM family.

Mr. Chair, in the last few years we are witnessing a steady increase number and proportion of international migrants at a global scale, reaching unprecedented records with hundreds of million people on the move. In a globalised society, undoubtedly migration is part of our daily life and there is no place in the world that is not affected by this phenomenon. This is why we, the International Community, should spare no efforts to ensure that human mobility contributes positively to the achievement of the relevant Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

People migrate for multiple reasons including for better economic opportunities, education, family reunification or to escape violence and unbearable living conditions. Hence the drivers of human mobility differ from one another, making migration an increasingly complex phenomenon that requires diversified

responses and more elaborated policies for migration management, both at national and international level. And it is our responsibility to engage at all levels to ensure a safe, orderly and dignified migration.

In this context we wish to commend IOM for issuing its tenth World Migration Report, a useful and widely appreciated reference, that is to be read in conjunction with the newly elaborated Organisation's Strategic Vision 2019-2023, a tool that will allow the IOM to meet expectations and face future endeavours.

Mr. Chair, the decision to migrate is often made on the basis of distorted information regarding the possibilities in countries of transit and destination, and festered by the lack of opportunities in places of origin. We are particularly engaged in addressing migration root causes in countries of origin, especially in the African continent, through bilateral and multilateral funds. In this context Italy contributes bilaterally with projects aimed at professional development, education opportunities and to strengthen the protection of those in vulnerable situations. We steadily support the International Organization for Migration in the implementation of the Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration programs, specifically in Libya and in Niger: this project is a key tool to curb irregular migration as it provides the socio-economic reintegration of migrants in their communities of origin.

Chair, in a week the Fifth Edition of MED-Dialogues, an annual high-level initiative, will take place in Rome with high level participants and guests from over 50 countries. The aim of the Forum will be to rethink the approach concerning the Mediterranean area; to complement with new ideas the analyses of the current challenges and draft a new "positive agenda" for shared challenges both at regional and international level. Migration flows in the Mediterranean region will be one of the main pillars of the Forum, alongside with other topics such as "Shared Security", "Shared Prosperity" and "Media, Science and Culture".

We look forward to continuing this type of interaction with all major stakeholders and we rely on IOM's invaluable co-operation and contribution to address the challenges and opportunities of human movement in a globalized world.

I thank you Mr. Chair.