

**110TH COUNCIL SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION 26 – 29 NOVEMBER, 2019**

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY

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**DRAFT STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY NIGERIA AT THE 110TH COUNCIL
SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) ON
AGENDA ITEM 7: THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
26 – 29 NOVEMBER, 2019**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered by Namibia on behalf of the African Group. We wish to appreciate the efforts of the out-going Chairperson, the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia, and welcome the incoming Chair of the Council Bureau, the Permanent Representative of Denmark. We join other delegates in welcoming the Lebanese Republic membership of the organisation and the ICMP who joined as an observer.

2. My delegation wishes to thank IOM for its continued support to the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in its efforts to find solution to the myriads of challenges it has faced recently on migration governance. IOM assistance has been quite noteworthy in the areas of capacity- building, advisory services, and technical assistance on migration matters. There is no doubt that developing adequate measures for managing international migration is one of the most complex governance challenges of our time.

3. Mr. Chair, we have witnessed a positive tide in the global governance of forced displacements with the recent adoption of the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees. However, if persons are still losing their lives in their numbers en route to safety, at sea, in the desert, in detentions, or elsewhere we are yet to achieve the mandates for which they were created.

4. States, regions, and the international community are facing several challenges at the implementation level. However, IOM in collaboration with all member states should continue to fulfil their commitments to ensure that the positive impacts of our efforts are

felt by migrants in whichever status they may find themselves. The noble stride towards ensuring the safety of migrants, protecting their rights and preventing them from being subjected to inhumane conditions at the global, regional and state levels, should be met with equal commitment. Meanwhile, this requires collaboration and concerted efforts among stakeholders at all levels of the society, including governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, diaspora communities, civil society organisations and specialised agencies, from origin, transit and destination countries. Nigeria is currently in the process of developing a national plan for the implementation of the GCM.

5. Mr. Chair, Nigeria recognises its primary responsibility of protecting its citizens and inhabitants anywhere they may be. Through its National Migration Policy, Nigeria is taking an enviable leadership role in addressing the challenges of migration governance through several home-grown initiatives. Its migration policy is anchored on the legislation and principles of non-discrimination and non-criminalisation as well as upholding the basic human rights of all migrants, including those in vulnerable situations. Nigeria National migration is currently under review to integrate emerging issues.

6. In addition to creating awareness on the dangers of travelling on irregular status, the Nigerian Government has taken several steps to bringing back its distressed nationals, especially those caught up in the treacherous trips through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean, as well as those that have become the target of xenophobic attacks. Steps are being taken in collaboration with the private sector and relevant partners to ensure that these returnees are sustainably reintegrated.

7. We recognise that to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, effective migration governance must be pursued while addressing push factors such as poverty and conflicts, environmental and climate change, gender equality, youth empowerment, health and education, efficient channelling of remittances, among others. On this note, Nigeria is

taking strategic and tactical approach to address the root causes of forced displacement on a longer term, while taking other short-term and medium-term measures to address current pertinent issues.

8. It is on this note that the Federal Government has created a new Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to enhance coordination of all humanitarian and social interventions in the country as well as strengthen existing framework and capacity of local stakeholders to provide suitable and holistic social protection.

9. Recently, Nigeria unveiled its Road Map on preventing Gender-Based violence in the Lake Chad Region, which is a call to action on the protection from gender-based violence in emergencies and humanitarian situations in the Lake Chad, including those displaced across borders. In addition, the Nigerian Immigration Service is registering all migrants through its e-registration platform. This gives opportunity to all migrants on irregular status or those who have exceeded their stay to regularise it within a maximum of six months without any penalty.

10. In conclusion Mr. Chair, we encourage the IOM to continue its good work of supporting and collaborating with governments, addressing migrant needs and ensuring that their basic human rights are respected in all situations. We are convinced that the organisation's commitment to strengthening local ownership and building local capacities would ensure greater preparedness, sustainability and predictability in migration management.

I thank you.