



## **State of Libya Statement**

### **111<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council Wednesday November 25, 2020**

**Delivered by; H. E. Mr. Tamim M. Baiou**

**Mr. Chairman**

**Excellencies**

**Mr. Director General**

I extend our congratulations to you Mr. Chairman for assuming your post and we also congratulate the new members of the bureau, Sierra Leon, Mexico, and Germany. We wish you all well in your mission.

We also wish to extend our compliments to the Director General, Mr. Vitorino, and the IOM team for holding this conference under the difficult circumstances that we are all experiencing today.

A special salute is sent to the Libya IOM team for their heroic efforts in providing humanitarian assistance on several fronts, and I particularly would like to extend a word of gratitude for the support and assistance provided during the floods that swept through the city of El Bayda and other neighboring cities in the eastern part of Libya.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**Discussing** irregular migration issues, human trafficking, smuggling as part of the criminal enterprise activities, and border security are matters of utmost importance and priority for the State of Libya particularly as a transit country.

**In** this regard, I stress constructive cooperation between the member states of this esteemed organization, is a must, to achieve progress on these important issues that affect every country. We believe that cooperation based on the adherence to, and the respect of international law and national sovereignty, including the national laws and legislations of every country in pivotal to the success of our collective mission. We must all assume our shared responsibilities and through effective solidarity. We will better manage and face these common challenges together.

### **Excellencies, Colleagues**

**“Safe and Orderly Migration”** can only be achieved through a stable Libya. Furthermore, we wholeheartedly believe that the stability of Libya is the stability to North Africa and Mediterranean regions.

**The** Libyan government, the Government of National Accord, despite the challenges and threats it has been facing, continues to extend a hand of collaboration and cooperation to all stakeholders, particularly neighboring countries to the south and north, at all levels, to work on efforts to alleviate some of the suffering of innocent migrants.

**We** are glad to see the resumption of activity of the voluntary return program, after an eight-month suspension due to the security situation and the war on Tripoli. This suspension further compounded the suffering on innocent civilians, migrants, and displaced people, alike.

**I** take this opportunity to once again, call on the international community to stand firm with the Libyan government and help stop the interference and unilateral intervention by certain countries in the internal affairs of Libya. We must be able to attend to our internal challenges, including addressing the issues of migration.

**We** can achieve this through meaningful partnerships with the United Nations and its organizations, like IOM and with the help of friendly countries who can provide help through capacity building and technical assistance programs, as well as providing support to help us manage and protect our borders. The safeguarding of the Libyan borders is the extended security of the entire region.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**We** must realize that irregular migration, human trafficking, smuggling and the criminal enterprise activity, cannot be solely addressed from the security perspective. We must attend to the humanitarian and socio-economic aspects. We are fully convinced that this can be achieved by helping source countries to build stronger economies, supporting entrepreneurship programs, and creating new investment opportunities.

**My** country can play an important role in this direction because of its long experience, and expertise in the field of investment in the African continent for decades. Joint ventures and investment in Africa offer hope to a young population that has aspirations and dreams. This is true security, which we can achieve together through sustained development.

**From** this platform, allow me to propose for an international mechanism that can focus on such vision with an actionable plan by experts on both sides of migration and development. We believe that a joint initiative of cooperation between the IOM, and the WTO with the involvement of UNCTAD and ITC can truly lay a strong foundation to properly address migration at its heart and through creative and inclusive initiatives.

**Thank you.**