

Egypt Statement – 112th IOM Council

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Egypt aligns itself with the statements delivered by the regional and political groups to which it belongs.

Allow me, at the outset, to thank the Director General for presenting his annual report and to congratulate the two new deputies director general for assuming their duties.

Egypt thanks IOM and its staff for their work throughout the very challenging circumstances presented by the COVID 19 pandemic. As we heard throughout the high level segment, migrant workers were among the most badly affected by the pandemic, as worldwide economic lockdowns and border closures led to loss of livelihoods and left countless migrants stranded with no way to return home.

While the pandemic had very dire consequences for Egypt's economy, we remained steadfast in our commitment to respect the rights of all migrants and refugees present on Egypt's soil, providing equal and non-discriminatory access to primary health care, including testing and treatment as well as access to vaccines.

Mr. Chairman

The issue of migration management is a top priority for Egypt as a country of origin, transit, destination and return. Egypt hosts more than 6 million refugees and migrants from 58 different nationalities. We are simultaneously a country of origin and are therefore keen to promote sound migration governance.

Egypt strongly believes that migration must be addressed in a comprehensive manner. We have taken measures in the fields of border management, combatting criminal networks, raising awareness, and developing relevant legal frameworks.

Simultaneously, Egypt included migration management as a pillar of our national development plan and is keen to address the root causes driving irregular migration, including through enhancing socio-economic development, and improving livelihoods for youth. Such measures should be complemented by a commitment by countries of destination to provide more pathways for regular migration.

Egypt joined the GCM Champion Countries initiative this year and has presented its voluntary progress report and participated in both GCM regional reviews for Africa and the Arab region. We welcome efforts by the Migration Network and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support the implementation of the GCM through a balanced approach that takes into account all GCM objectives equally. We also look forward to the 2023 International Migration Review Forum which will present an important opportunity to exchange best practices.

Mr. Chairman

We would like to commend IOM for its flexibility and important contributions in response to the pandemic and the challenging humanitarian crises outlined by the Director General.

Simultaneously, we commend IOM for pressing ahead with the IGF and other important reforms and appreciate the DG's ambitious reform agenda, including the establishment of a department of Strategic Planning and a Department of Peace and Development Coordination which can contribute to addressing the drivers of irregular and forced migration.

It is absolutely critical for the international community to provide adequate support to addressing these drivers, in order to guarantee that migration is a matter of choice and not compulsion. Collectively, we must do more in this regard.

As the incoming Presidency of COP 27, Egypt commends the Director General for appointing a Special Envoy on Migration and Climate Action. Egypt also welcomes the IOM's Institutional Strategy for Migration, Climate Change and the Environment which focuses on both rapid-onset and slow-onset climate change impacts, which include water scarcity, sea-level rise, and sea-water intrusion into coastal areas.

We also welcome the strategy's engagement on issues of water security, environmental security and livelihood security and its focus on areas that are currently underexplored, such as the linkages between migration and both ecosystem management and water management. We hope these themes will be adequately covered during the upcoming IMRF and in operationalising GCM objective 23 on international cooperation.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.