



State of Libya
Statement delivered at the 112 Session of IOM
Delivered by the Permanent Representative
H.E. Mr. Tamim M. Baiou

Geneva - December 1, 2021

Mr. Chairman,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to extend to the Chairman and to the members of the bureau our congratulations on assuming the Council leadership. This 112th session is being held at a critical time where our world is facing unprecedented circumstances and challenges, which are directly affecting migration and people mobility in the most derogatory way. New crisis situations continue to emerge around the world, leading to millions of people having to leave their homes, becoming internally displaced, or migrate in pursuit of a dream.

While Libya continues to address its own challenges and makes headway towards stability, we are fully cognizant that addressing the issues of migration must be done on multitude of levels, beginning with bilateral cooperation with neighboring countries on border control. We further believe that time has come for a broader, a more comprehensive, balanced, and coherent approach to the issue of migration, that ought to address the issue at its roots. This must be done in a spirit of solidarity and partnership to treat the exacerbating migration crisis, while considering the humanitarian, socio-economic, and environmental dimensions and with a view that respects the cultural, human, and social perspectives.

Mr. President,

My country is not a source country, nor a destination for migration, it is a transit country and accounts for hundreds of thousands of unregulated migrants that cross our vast porous borders and come from near and far. We are concerned for the safety and wellbeing of these innocent civilians that fall prey to cross-border criminal enterprise and international human trafficker networks. The Libyan government has and continues to do what it can, under some very difficult circumstances, to rescue, and save the lives of these innocent migrants from dying in the Mediterranean. Libya is not a safe harbor for the return of these migrants and the responsibility to protect them is a joint responsibility that rests with everyone.

From here, we renew our call to the international community to develop a comprehensive and integrated plan to address this crisis. Just like how we all came together to deal with the pandemic, migration requires the same will and effort. We call on relevant UN and other International Organizations to join IOM, as well as source and destination countries to come together and have a serious discussion as to how to collaborate to address migration comprehensively at its roots.

The International Organization for Migration remains a major partner for my country, on many projects including the important, Safe and Dignified Voluntary Return Project, which over the past years completed the return of more than 60,000 illegal immigrants stranded in Libya, as well as providing emergency assistance to the displaced and migrants in need.

We commend IOM, on its leadership and applaud the work done by its team on the ground.

I thank you.

