

The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The 113th Session of the Council

Arab Group's Statement

Egypt is honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Arab Group.

The Arab region plays a constructive role in promoting multilateral efforts towards effective and sustainable migration policies. As countries of origin, transit, and destination, Arab states have always been keen to ensure sound migration governance and enhance safe, and legal migratory pathways that would contribute to the sustainable development of migrants and their host communities.

In 2020, the number of migrants and refugees hosted by Arab countries amounted to 41.4 million person, constituting nearly 15% of the world's migrants and refugees. Moreover, 12 countries in the region hosted 14% of the world's migrant workers.

These numbers are expected to rise, given the intricate links of migration and displacement to deteriorating economic conditions, poverty, and political instability, climate change, among other drivers in the region and beyond. They underscore the need to address those critical issues in a collective and holistic manner that tackles the adverse drivers of migration and takes the rights and well-being of migrants- as well as their hosting communities- into account.

The Arab group welcomes the IOM activities and efforts during this challenging period, including its work in a number of humanitarian crises. We continue to support the Director General's ambitious reform agenda, intended to make the Organization fit for purpose, taking into consideration its increased responsibilities following the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration. We note the importance of continued commitment by IOM's leadership to ensuring efficiency, transparency, and accountability including through strengthening the Internal Governance Framework.

We also welcome the outcome of the working Group on IOM partnerships, governance, and organizational priorities, and the consensus that was reached on the outcome of the working group on budget reform. We hope that the new proposed budget reforms will allow the IOM to meet the increasingly complex challenges, while reflecting the priorities and needs of countries in which it operates.

The Arab Group wishes to once more reaffirm the IOM's important role in supporting States to safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants, and develop a positive discourse on migrants' contributions, which helps combat intolerance, racism and xenophobia.

The Arab Group- the majority of whose members adopted the GCM in Marrakech- reaffirms the importance of implementing the GCM, in accordance with national priorities. We welcome the Progress Declaration adopted at the International Migration Review Forum, which acknowledged the shared responsibilities of states to respect each other's needs and concerns over migration, and reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, through the implementation of well-governed migration policies.

The Arab Group believes that well-managed migration can contribute significantly to inclusive and sustainable development in countries of origin and destination

In this context, allow us to thank the IOM for its role as coordinator of the UN network on Migration, and to thank the Director General and the secretariat for their important role as the leading organization in the field of Migration in the UN system.

Finally, the Arab group would like to recall its request to add Arabic as an official language of the Organization in line with UN-wide standards and practice, especially in light of the IOM's accession to the UN in 2016. With the steadily increasing cooperation between members of the Arab region and the IOM, we look forward to ensuring equitable geographical representation and continued engagement with the region's priorities.

I Thank you.