

115 SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL STATEMENT BY PERMENENT REPRESENTITIVE OF LIBYA

Mr. chairperson, MS. director general, distinguished delegates

At the outset, I would like to join others in congratulating you on your assumption of the presidency of the Organization's Council at its 115th session. I would also like to express my appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Katrina Stagg for her dedicated leadership during the Council's previous session.

We thank the director general for her report to 115 SESSION, and her ongoing efforts to advance the work of the international organization of migration. We also congratulate Ms. Song Lee on her appointment as deputy director general for administrative and reform.

The issues of migration, refugees, and internal displaced people remain among the most critical challenges facing the world today. Statistics show that it has reached unprecedented numbers.

The state of Libya, due to its geographical location along the Mediterranean coast, has become a major transit route for migration to Europe. However, this challenge arises in the context of exceptional circumstances. Libya is in the midst of rebuilding its institutions after years of crises, leaving it burdened with responsibilities that far exceed its capacity. As a transit country for irregular migration, not a country of origin or destination, Libya underscores the need for shared responsibility to address this issue. Combating human smuggling and trafficking networks, requires coordinated efforts at bilateral, regional, and international levels. As a part of Libya's efforts to address the illegal immigration and combat human smuggling and trafficking, several measures have been implemented to regulate the entry of workers through official channels and legal procedures.

Mr. chair

As part of my country's concerns, on July 17, Libya hosted a conference on migration across the Mediterranean, with the participation of a number of interior ministers, immigration officials and relevant international organizations, including the International Organization of Migration, during which they agreed upon the necessity of collective action and comprehensive, multi-

dimensional approach to address the issue of migration starting from countries of origin ,countries of transit ,and country of destination and assistance in adopting new policies to deal with the phenomenon of illegal migration, bearing shared responsibility and respecting human dignity And work to eliminate human smuggling and trafficking networks.

Despite facing significant security and economic challenges Libya has not hesitated to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need due to compelling humanitarian circumstances such as armed conflict, for example in response to the unfortunate events in the brotherly country of sedan Libya extended humanitarian and medical assistance, also facilitate the work of relevant international organizations to provide the best service to them, to those who have entered its border fleeing from the conflicts.

However, the growing numbers of migrants—crossing our borders in unprecedented volumes place immense pressure on our limited resources.

We in Libya believe that addressing the large waves of migration require addressing its root causes this can be achieved by working together to resolve armed conflicts ,mitigation the devastating effects of climate change, and foster investments in sustainable development .

The international organization for migration is a key partner for libya to cooperate in several areas such as voluntary return program and the humanitarian and medical assistance to many migrants stranded in Libya

Finally, the state of Libya calls for the addition of Arabic as an official language of the organisation .Arabic is not only one of the most spoken languages in the world, but it is one of the official language of the united nations .moreover the Arab region is among the most affected by issues related to migration and refugees

Thank you.