



The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
to the United Nations Office & International Organizations in Geneva

**STATEMENT OF EGYPT**

**DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HISHAM BADR**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT**

**AT THE NINETY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)  
COUNCIL**

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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by congratulating the new members of the Bureau. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Ambassador GARRIGUES of Spain and the members of his bureau for their work.

Egypt fully aligns itself with the statement made by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group. We welcome the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development [IGAD ] and December 18 as observers.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation looks forward to continue working closely with Mr. SWING, the new Director General. I would like to reiterate our wish to maintain and further strengthen the fruitful relations that exist between Egypt and IOM.

Mr. Chairman,

We look forward to the able leadership of the Organization under Mr. SWING and would like to express our appreciation for the three priority areas that he has outlined since taking office on 1 October : to strengthen Member State ownership through regular consultations, to foster collaborative partnerships, and to encourage staff professionalism. We are confident that Mr. SWING's vast experience in the African Continent will allow him to better address the concerns and interests expressed by the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

We attach importance to the need for gaining a comprehensive understanding of the impact of the global financial crisis on migration. While the crisis is still unfolding and little data is available, we look forward to IOM playing a leading role in collecting the data and in explaining the impact of the crisis. A possible reduction of remittances is a

source of concern for many developing countries. The risk of increased xenophobia and that migrants will be stigmatized is all the more relevant. Respect for the human rights of migrants must be emphasized. We reiterate our call for the ratification of the 1990 Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the choice of the theme “Human Rights and Migration: Working together for Safe, Dignified and Secure Migration” as the overarching theme for the 2009 International Dialogue on Migration. This theme is particularly relevant and timely in view of the discussions during Roundtable I of the Second Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development held recently in Manila and which addressed the topic “Migration, Development, and Human Rights.”

Mr. Chairman,

We are looking forward to Mr. SWING’s participation in the Regional Experts Meeting on Rights-Based Assistance to Victims of Trafficking organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IOM in Cairo from 14 to 16 December 2008 under the patronage of H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, the First lady of Egypt. During the meeting, an Arabic version of the IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking will be launched.

Mr. Chairman ,

Human trafficking is a de-humanizing crime that violates individuals’ human rights, and there is a clear need to increase international efforts to combat it more systematically and effectively. In this context, we look forward to furthering cooperation between Egypt and IOM in the field of combating trafficking in human beings in view of the efforts of the “Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement” in raising public awareness

for this important issue and her global initiative “End Human Trafficking Now”. I would also like to point out the significance of the decision by Member States of the African Union during their Summit that took place last July in Sharm El Sheikh to propose and start negotiations on a Global Action Plan for combating trafficking in human beings under the auspices of the President of the United Nations General Assembly

Mr. Chairman,

On the Programme and Budget for 2009, and as expressed in the Statement delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group, my delegation supports the proposed Administrative Part of the Budget for 2009 based on Zero Real Growth [ ZRG]. This will allow the organization to cover cost and statutory increases and avoid possible reductions in Headquarter and Field Structures, as well as, avoid negative impacts on IOM’s responsiveness.

I would like to reiterate the importance that we attach to ensuring that the Programme and Budget for 2009 includes the establishment of a Mission with Regional Functions in Central Africa and a Capacity Building Centre for Africa and that the resources allocated to them in document MC/2258 remain unchanged. This has been a long awaited request of the African Group.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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