

Permanent Mission of
The Republic of the
SUDAN
To U.N. Office, Geneva



البعثة الدائمة
لجمهورية السودان
جنيف

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of the Sudan
On the 96th Session of the IOM Council**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 96th Session of the Council. I take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to the members of your bureau, and to register my profound appreciation for the efforts exerted by the IOM Leadership and Secretariat to convene this important meeting. Let me also welcome the (*Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar the IGAD and December 18 as Observers*). My Delegation aligns itself with the statement presented by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

My delegation values the important role of the IOM as a leading global organization focusing on migration management from an integral and holistic perspective. We follow with satisfaction its expanding role and continuing growth with respect to its membership, to its total expenditure and the ongoing increase in its field operations and activities.

In this context, my delegation strongly supports and looks forward for the establishment of the MRF (mission with regional function) and the center of capacity building in Africa as scheduled in 2009.

Mr. President,

Since its independence, the Sudan has hosted, and is still hosting millions of refugees, and immigrants from neighboring countries, mainly those who seek shelter and refuge due to civil wars or natural disasters, where they share with us our limited resources and services. In the same line, the neighboring countries are hosting thousands of Sudanese refugees and immigrants.

Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, and the DPA in 2006, and Amsar Agreement, the Sudanese political scene has witnessed major positive development. The Sudan is traversing now a historical phase which implies the alert of all its efforts to establish a comprehensive and durable Peace. In this regard, the Sudan is accommodating now, beside the hybrid forces since 2007, more than 250 NGO having around 1600 humanitarian workers, 2100 of them are foreigners.

On the other hand, and since the exploitation of Petrol in Sudan, and the economic revival, my country is becoming a receiving destination for thousands of labour migrants, mainly from Asian countries.

In this context, migration is steadily making its way to the top of our priorities in the internal and external agenda, this has been clearly translated by the establishment in 2007 of the High Council for Migration, presided by the Vice-President of the Republic, beside the already existing organ "Organization of the Sudanese Working Abroad, which is in charge of expatriate issues.

These efforts, Mr. President, are highly appreciated by your respective organization and reflected by the two visits of the previous Director General, Mr. John McKinley, now we are looking forward and welcoming a similar visit from the new Director General to ensure and promote the existing cooperation between the GOS and the IOM. We are again looking forward that the areas of cooperation shall underscore our specific concerns which are:-

First: The returnees, both refugees and IDPs, my delegation recommends that the return assistance shall mark the political progress and reflect an increased focus on early recovery as well as recovery and development, specially in Southern Sudan which has witnessed since the signing of CPA in 2005 the return of 2 millions refugees and IDPs through organized and spontaneous return, the majority are still in great need of support.

At this juncture, we would like to pay special tribute to the outstanding role the IOM has been playing since the signing of the MOU with GOS in a view to assist in the process of voluntary return.

Second: Programme to empower national capacities -

- Increased partnership to support National NGOs;
- Assessment and surveys to ensure implementation of strategic national plans;
- Capacity building and technical assistance in relation to expatriate surveys which has started in Sudan since 1985.
- Capacity building to upgrade our national institution and caliber to encounter the challenges arising from the influx of labour migration.

Third: Ensure and facilitate the return of qualified Sudanese expatriate from abroad through sustainable or circular programmes by creating conditions conducive to their return.

Fourth: Balanced distribution of programmes and activities to cover the needs all over the country. In this regard, it worth mentioning that more than 70% of the humanitarian and rehabilitation programmes are allocated to the South and to Darfur while the East of Sudan remains a forgotten island.

To conclude, allow me, Mr. President to register once again my deep thanks and profound gratitude to the IOM for leading one of its largest operations in Sudan, through more than 15 regional offices and locations, and to commend its dedicated efforts to respond to the needs of its member States.