

**Statement of the
Delegation of the Republic of the Sudan
To the (98th) Session of the IOM Council**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Allow me, Mr. President at the outset to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 98th Session of the Council, my congratulation is also extended to the respective members of your office. My delegation greatly thanks the outgoing President for his efforts which facilitated our work during last year; our appreciation is also addressed to the IOM leadership and Secretariat for organizing this important meeting and for making the necessary documents available before us.

Mr. President, my delegation acknowledges the excellent work IOM has continued to perform; we follow with satisfaction its continuing growth in respect to its membership, its expenditure and activities. In this context, my delegation register its profound appreciation for the organization for leading one of its largest operations in my country through its national office in Khartoum and fifteen other offices and localities that cover many parts of Sudan.

Mr. President, Sudan is known as the largest country in Africa; its vast open borders with nine countries is estimated over 8,400 km, plus the Red Sea. This position has greatly facilitated the mixed migration flows into and out of Sudan. Since its independence, my country had hosted, and is still hosting thousands of refugees and migrants; this is beside millions of IDPs in the last ten years. Our neighboring countries are, in the same line, hosting thousands of Sudanese refugees and migrants. The signing of the three Peace Agreement: the CPA (Comprehensive Peace Agreement) in 2005, the DPA (Darfur Peace Agreement), and the East Agreement in 2006 represented a turning point in Sudan. These agreements triggered a measure movement of refugees and IDPs to various areas of my country. We also conducted the 5th Census of our population and we are preparing for general elections, scheduled in April 2010. It is indeed, a remarkable phase in Sudanese history. We are committed to establishing a comprehensive and durable peace. The Government and the people of Sudan appreciate the support and assistance, the International Community has rendered us. The significance of the role of International Community is demonstrated by the existence of over 250 NGOs, approximately 16,000 (Sixteen thousands) humanitarian workers, of whom more than 2,000 foreigners.

On the other hand the discovery of oil and its exploitation has induced economic boom; as a result my country is receiving thousands of labour migrants mainly from our neighboring countries and Asian countries. This is beside the irregular migration flow which is estimated around 500/day. Given this scenario, migratory movements into, through and out of Sudan, make it a country of origin, transit and destination.

Thus migration has become an integral part of our internal and external policies. Our Government has established high council for migration, which is presided by Vice-President of the Republic of the Sudan and the strengthening of the already existing organ "Secretariat for the Sudanese Working Abroad" which is responsible for expatriate issues. In this regard, my delegation would like to give special tribute to the IOM which supports the establishment of the Sudan Center for Migration Studies. The Center aims to conduct migration researches, prepare migration profile and capacity building programmes.

Due to our existing and increasing migration challenges, my county is looking forward for a constructive and consolidated cooperation with the IOM; to address the following:

1. Provide assistance to facilitate the return of Sudanese stranded migrants, mainly from Libya, Egypt, Yemen and Lebanon. It is pertinent to mention that the Sudan has facilitated last year via its own resources the return of more than (15) thousands from the above countries.
2. The returnees, both refugees and IDPs, my delegation recommends that the return assistance shall mark the political development, and that more focus shall be given to early recovery and recovery and development programmes mainly in Southern Sudan which has witnessed the return of 2 million refugees and IDPs through organized and spontaneous return, the majority are still in great need of support.
3. Ensure and facilitate the return of qualified Sudanese expatriate from abroad through sustainable or circular programmes by creating conditions conducive to their return.
4. Programme to empower national capacities in migration related issues.
5. 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 West regions.

At the regional level, my delegation supports and encourages the african initiatives to address the growing migration challenges and to further empower the migration management mechanisms and instruments. Being a part of the Horn of Africa, my delegation further support the consultative process (IGAD-RCP) on migration, which represent an efficient and constructive platform of cooperation between IOM and this specific part of Africa.

Before concluding, Mr. President, my delegation would like to express its views concerning the issue of the IOM structure review.

We value the objectives of the review and appreciate the efforts undertaken by the SRT. However, we believe that there is a need for adequate time to further study the proposal. My delegation furthermore, believes that the Horn of Africa is a hot spot which requires special attention.

Least but not last, we reiterate our commitment to work closely with the IOM, and commend its dedicated efforts to respond to the needs of its member States.