

Meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 1.12.05  
Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Tape No. \_\_\_\_\_



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

**STATEMENT OF EGYPT**

**DELIVERED BY MR. AMIN MELEIKA  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT**

**AT THE NINETIETH SESSION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)  
COUNCIL**

**(GENEVA, 29 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER 2005)**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election. My congratulations also go to the new members of the Bureau. I would like as well to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to H.E. Ambassador de Alba of Mexico and the members of his bureau for their excellent performance during the past year. Allow me to also express our appreciation to Mr. Brunson McKINLEY the Director General and Ms. Ndioro NDIAYE Deputy Director General for their outstanding work in leading IOM.

Egypt fully aligns itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the African Group. We welcome Cameroon, Ghana , Togo and Belarus as new members of the Organization. The new members will certainly contribute to strengthening cooperation on migration issues , and they will be able to capitalize on the Organization's expertise. Allow me to also welcome Islamic relief as observer.

The launching of IOM's Business Advisory Board is an important initiative. We are glad that Mr. Shafik Gabr, a distinguished Egyptian businessman, is among the respected and influential chief executives the Director General has assembled from all parts of the world. The Board can play a significant role in identifying and exchanging views on global issues relevant to migration and business, in addition to developing effective and practical solutions.

The present session of the Council convenes at a time when the issue of international migration has risen to the top of the global policy agenda, and as we prepare for the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development to take place in New York during September 2006. Egypt, as a migrant sending country with more than five million migrants

abroad, and as host to more than four million migrants, attaches importance to actively participating in all discussions leading to the High Level Dialogue. The focus of this year's International Dialogue on Migration on the theme "Towards Policy Coherence on Migration" is particularly timely and reflects one of the principal recommendations of the recently released report of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM). It is clear that the governance of international migration would be enhanced by improved coherence at the national, regional and global levels. However, the need for capacity building in developing countries is particularly significant in order to establish coherent and effective national migration policies. Achieving policy coherence on migration directly relates to the issue of migration and development, as it is only through coordinated efforts that the developmental potential of migration can be maximized and its costs minimized. Policy coherence can strengthen the role that migration plays in promoting economic and social development in countries of origin, as well as in contributing to prosperity in destination countries.

Egypt has followed with interest the discussions that have taken place with respect to IOM's strategy and the implications of these discussions on the future directions of the Organization. Discussions should focus on investigating ways and means to strengthen the Organization's central role in international migration management with a view to addressing in a balanced manner the needs and interests of all countries. We welcome the important ideas H.E. the Ambassador of Mexico has expressed as Chairman of the Council in the paper entitled "IOM : Current and future trends on international migration : Towards a new culture on migration". The ideas put forward provide a good basis for present and future discussions, and we agree with the emphasis on full respect of migrants' rights.

As to the Programme and Budget for 2006 , we support the designation of Migration and Development as a separate function in the Migration Management services. We also welcome the establishment of the Stranded Migrant Facility as it would allow the organization to provide flexible and urgent humanitarian assistance to an increasing number of stranded migrants in Africa and elsewhere.

We commend IOM for its efficient work in managing the 1035 facility. The facility has made it possible to carry out very useful projects in a number of developing countries, and has proven to be an important tool for capacity building to address areas of migration management.

We appreciate the Administration's efforts in addressing the issue of outstanding contributions to the Administrative part of the Budget while at the same time maintaining sound financial management of the Organization. It is our view that any suggestions to withdraw the Organization's services or close its offices in developing countries with outstanding contributions should be rejected as this would be penalizing the countries that are mostly in need of such services.

Let me conclude by reiterating Egypt's interest in continuing to actively participate in deliberations and discussions with respect to IOM's policies and activities. In this regard, Egypt has submitted its candidature to membership of the Executive Committee for the biennium 2006-2007.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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