



**Statement of the
Delegation of the Republic of the Sudan
To the (103rd) Session of the IOM Council**

Mr. President, allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as the Chairperson of the 103rd Session of the Council; my congratulation is also extended to the respective members of your office. My delegation thanks the outgoing president for his restless efforts during the last year. I seize this opportunity to express appreciation for the IOM leadership and secretariat for their endeavors to make this meeting a successful one. I would also like to welcome the new members who joined the IOM during this session.

Mr. President, my delegation aligns itself to the African group statement delivered earlier by Angola, and in our national capacity we would like to voice our acknowledgment to the excellent work IOM has continued to perform; we notice the continuing growth of the IOM in terms of membership and in terms of expenditure and activities. With 155 member states, a budget of around 1.3

billion USD, and a field presence in more than 100 countries the organization plays an indispensable role in addressing migration issues and challenges.

International migration continues to grow and expand, it is affected or caused by factors such as climate change, armed conflict, poverty and economic constraints that continue to exist and persist. The result is a remarkable increase in migratory flows all over the world. Concrete measures need to be adopted to prevent the recurrence of tragedies such as those of the islands of Lampedusa and the coast of Malta and Sicily. In this regard, my delegation welcomes IOM's speedy, effective and timely response, in the context of the implementation of the strategic programme of humanitarian assistance in emergency operations.

Mr. President, My country the Sudan is known as one of the largest countries in Africa, its vast open borders and geographical position has greatly facilitated mixed migration flows into and out of the Sudan. My country hosted and is still hosting thousands of refugees, and although my government is trying its best to provide them with the possible attainable living conditions, their camps tend to be a fertile environment for the criminalized activities of Human trafficking and smuggling gangs.

The phenomenon of human trafficking began to find its way to the eastern part of the Sudan –as a state of transit- benefitting from the refugee camps that are full of persons inspired by great expectations in migration. Combating this phenomenon is a serious challenge that requires consolidated support to the national mechanisms. The IOM is invited to continue its valuable support to the Government of Sudan in this concern.

Following the birth of the Republic of South Sudan and the entry into force for Doha Document for Darfur Peace, big operations for repatriation and resettlement were launched. The support and assistance received by IOM with regard to repatriation and resettlement for the IDPs, refugees as well as South Sudanese citizens back to their home towns and villages is highly appreciated by the Government and the People of the Sudan. A remarkable support in verification and mobility has been provided.

A sincere voice of appreciation also goes to the IOM for providing assistance to facilitate the return of Sudanese stranded migrants, mainly from Libya, Syria and other states where unexpected turmoil urged them to flee.

Mr. President, in order to address our existing and increasing migration challenges; my country is looking forward for a constructive and consolidated cooperation with the IOM in the following areas:

1. Support the efforts of the Government in combating activities of human trafficking through its national mechanisms.
2. Assistance to facilitate the return of Sudanese stranded migrants.
3. Continue the valuable assistance in resettlement programs for returnees, either migrants, refugees, or IDPs with collaboration and close coordination with the governmental competent authorities.
4. Continue the operations to facilitate the repatriation of Southern Sudanese citizens to their homeland.
5. Support the efforts of the government in encouraging and facilitating the return of qualified Sudanese expatriate from abroad through sustainable or circular programmes by creating conditions conducive to their return to participate in the development process.

To conclude Mr. President, my delegation reiterates its commitment to work closely with the IOM, and we commend its dedicated efforts to respond to the challenging and persisting issues of the international migration worldwide.

Thank you.