

Meeting 462
Date 2.12.04
Time _____
Tape No. _____

Statement of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Mr. Chairman, I would like at the outset to fully align my Delegation to the joint statement made by Algeria on behalf of the African Group. Let me also join previous speakers in congratulating you for your election and the distinguished new members of the bureau.

We also commend the comprehensive statements made by the Director General and his distinguished Deputy and congratulate them on their excellent leadership at the helm of IOM. Their significant contribution to the International effort in Migration is highly appreciated. We are glad their contribution will continue in the following years, as the features of an evolving framework of International Migration is likely to be drawn.

Egypt also appreciates the efforts of Mme. Deputy Director General in having the IOM addressing Migration challenges with an emphasis on Africa in a manner responding to their importance to the continent and its development.

We equally appreciate the excellent work by Migration Policy and Research of IOM, and the successful organization of a Seminar on Migration and Trade in September, which have lead us through this stage of our dialogue on international migration. Such dialogue focuses on the core issues pertaining to new realities of international migration. Such as : the building of an international political will to address new challenges and opportunities relevant to international migration, understanding the Humanitarian and socio-economic grounds of Migration while recognizing the developmental dimensions of international migration.

Mr. Chairman, 5 million Egyptians are either temporary or permanent migrants abroad; Egypt while hosting more than 4 million immigrants, is very much interested in the development of such dialogue and the realization of its basic objectives. In a globalized world the Internationalization of norms and regulations based upon a prudently established common understanding of the new realities is a key to maximize benefits and address challenges of International migration. We hope that our dialogue would continue envisaging such an approach.

The work of IOM deserves our full appreciation. Its success and sound achievements are reflected in its increasing attraction of new members the Bahamas, Estonia, Brazil, and Turkey and observers like ISESCO whom we welcome to our family. We believe that IOM is increasingly becoming the main international forum to develop a better balanced, humane, and lucrative pattern dealing with International Migration. Such appreciation fuel our aspiration to witness a higher level of financial and technical engagement by the IOM's Donor States in sound migration projects in Africa and the MEA region.

We welcome all efforts to maximize the utilization of the 1035 facility as a major tool to build capacity and enhance the developmental dimensions of International Migration in Developing Countries.

We would like to lend our support to both resolutions presented to the council on the use of project related overhead income to cover staff and security costs as well as support cost of administrative nature.

As for the Institutional Future of the IOM we advocate the "improved status quo" option realized through a closer structural relationship between the IOM and the United Nations. We encourage the administration to conduct necessary consultations with the United Nations in this regard and report back to member states.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we acknowledge with IOM that Migration is increasingly an issue needing a global approach and coordinated responses. States need a commonly understood language to secure a successful international coordination. The IOM is equipped, along with the political will of its members, to contribute significantly to such an endeavor. We look forward to further progress and development of our dialogue and our organization.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.