

Opening remarks as the moderator of Session 2 : Reflecting on the outcomes of the 2013 UN high level dialogue on international migration and development with a view to implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

H. E. Dr Nabil Elaraby, Secretary General, League of Arab States,

H. E. Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Director General of IOM,

Distinguish Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the IOM for inviting me to moderate this important session at the 5th Global RCP meeting, which reflects on the outcomes of the 2013 UN high level dialogue (HLD) on international migration and development, with a view to implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

This session has two presentations followed by a breakout discussions on four themes. The objectives of this session are;

- to review the progress that has been made by RCPs regarding the eight-point agenda¹ for action of the HLD 2013, and
- what challenges have been faced in this process, and to discuss the role of RCPs in the implementation and review of migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The eight point agenda for action which emanated from the HLD 2013, has provided a framework to build a better life for migrants in terms of more economic benefits and social protection, and also encourage both labor sending and receiving countries to strengthen the evidence base, national capacities and enhance cooperation and partnerships, to create a better environment for

¹ Protect the human rights of all migrants; Reduce the costs of labour migration; Eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking; Address the plight of stranded migrants; Improve public perceptions of migrants; Integrate migration into the development agenda; Strengthen the migration evidence base and Enhance migration partnerships and cooperation

migrants. It is timely that we hear from our presenters today about the key developments that took place on international migration and development after the HLD in 2013.

Migration also has strong links to the outcome document of the SDGs. Paragraph 29 of the outcome document notes that “we will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons”. There are 7 targets explicitly refer to migrants and migration out of 169 targets indicated in the outcome document of the SDGs.

Following our political leaders having adopted the outcome document at the UN Sustainable Development Summit held in 25-27 September 2015 in New York, now, as responsible nations we have to start working towards achieving the set targets by implementing them into our national policies within the next 15 years. I believe this session will provide some inputs on how we achieve our desired goals.

On the issue of migration, It is worthy of note that the Post- 2015 Development Agenda has made significant progress from its predecessor framework, the Millennium Development Goals. Although the MDGs did not contain any target setting on migration and development, the Post-2015 Development Agenda has set clear targets and mobilized global action to improve the quality of the migration process. If properly implemented substantial benefits could be accrued

by up to 232 million international migrants and their dependents in the form of more development to both their countries of origin and destination.

In the SDG that are incorporated into the Development Agenda, migration cuts across several aspects of development. These include improving the quality of human mobility through “well-managed migration policies, displacement among issues related to peaceful and inclusive societies and Disaster Risk Reduction, address trafficking in a comprehensive manner and action by Finance for Development Action Agenda which deals with remittances.

Goal 8 of the SDGs is to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.” Migration is also mentioned in sub-part 8.8 of this goal, which calls for the protection of labor rights and the promotion of safe and secure working environments for “all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.” Migration is also mentioned under Goal 10, to “reduce inequality within and among countries,” in sub-part 10.7 which calls for the facilitation of “orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies,” as well as in sub-part 10.c which calls for the reduction of transaction costs of

migrant remittances to less than three percent and the elimination of remittance corridors with costs higher than five percent.

I wish to mention here the significant role played by the IOM in actively contributing to the process of formulating the Post-2015 Development Agenda by advocating for migration to be recognized as an essential component of any future development framework and of national development policies and plans. Through this work it has been able to contribute to a better understanding of the links between international migration and development in order to highlight the development potential of migration for the benefit of both societies and migrants and to contribute to a sustainable development framework that takes full account of the potential of migration to assist poverty reduction. The Post-2015 Development Agenda offers a unique opportunity to comprehensively integrate migration into the global development strategy. It is an opportunity that should be vigorously pursued for the betterment of all of humanity.

To provide us more details on key developments since the 2013 UN HLD on International Migration & Development and inclusion of Migration into the 2030 Agenda for SDGs, let me invite Ms. Pamela De Lary, Senior Advisor in the Office of the UN Special Representative for Migration. Ms. De Lary.....

Guiding questions for session 2

- What have been RCP actions to follow up with the outcomes of the HLD 2013?
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- What progress has been made regarding the eight-point agenda for action of the HLD 2013 and what challenges have been faced in this process?
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- What role should RCPs play in SDG follow-up and review?
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- How can RCPs as regional and inter-regional networks contribute to the exchanges of experiences on the realisation of the migration-related targets?
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- What would be required to ensure RCPs involvement with the SDG follow-up and review framework?
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- How could the RCPs enhance their linkages among themselves and with other processes and fora in order to contribute to SDG follow-up and review?