

Statement Delivered at the

**High-Level Panel on Migration and Structural Transformation in
Africa**

25 September 2018

12:00 - 14:00, Conference Room IV, UN Headquarters

New York, United States of America

Intervention of the delegate from Egypt

Talking Points: Migration & Structural Transformation in Africa

– By virtue of its geographical location, Egypt is a country of origin, transit and destination on the Central Mediterranean Sea Route. Egypt is, therefore, exposed to the negative social, economic and security aspects of human trafficking and irregular migration; **compelling us to place prime interest in combating both.**

– The international nature of irregular migration and human trafficking - and their transnational negative social, economic and security repercussions - requires a global response. As a result, Egypt firmly believes in international cooperation as the best means to curbing these phenomena (side note: Egypt positively views the international efforts to adopt the GCM).

– The international community needs to broaden its perception of migration. **Migration is not a mere security threat**; rather it is a human phenomenon that occurred throughout history. **As such, tackling migration via mere security measures is a deeply flawed approach.**

– Egypt emphasizes the need for a holistic approach to migration that views it as a positive phenomenon, which can greatly contribute to international development. The international community should give priority to the principle of joint management of migration through the expansion of legal migration pathways and adopting comprehensive support strategies to deal with irregular migration. **In addition, the international community should work on dealing with the economic and social root causes of migration via granting technical and economic assistance and helping developing countries in creating holistic legal and political migration management systems.**

– As for Africa, Egypt's firmly believes that the continent is best suited to showcase the world the positive effects of migration, due to the large processes of migration on the inter/intra-African levels and the presence of major African expatriate communities in Europe and North America.

– To harness the potential of migration on the African level, Egypt strongly believes in:

1- Building upon existing framework (such as the EU – Horn of Africa Initiative on Migration Routes) and expanding them to mobilize resources for the development of pan-African institutional capacities to deal with migration and its different aspects. **Egypt has in this respect created, under the auspices of the Khartoum Process and with the cooperation of Italy, a Cairo-based training center for building the capacity of police and law-enforcement agencies in the field of irregular migration.**

2- The full utilization of the potential of the multilateral track and relevant regional and international cooperation frameworks. These cooperative frameworks are best suited to help African countries recognize their common needs, articulate their demands and reach favorable cooperation schemes that could help in addressing the social and economic root causes of migration, create humane and economically viable schemes for “return migration” and assist in creating partnerships between African expatriate communities and their home societies. Examples in this regard include the GCM (once it is implemented), as well as the Valetta Process, as they both present suitable international frameworks to provide aid to deal with the root causes of migration and development of national capacities in this field. **An example in this regard is Egypt's utilization of the funds available through the Valetta Process to create 7 diverse projects to address the root causes of migration.**