

**Permanent Mission of the
Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations**



**البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية مصر العربية
لدى الأمم المتحدة**

**Statement of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Explanation of Position after the adoption of the
Progress Declaration of the
International Migration Review Forum**

**Delivered by Ambassador Osama Abdelkhalek
Permanent Representative of the
Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations**

May 20th, 2022 – 03:00 PM

UN General Assembly

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Egypt's Statement after the adoption of the Progress Declaration

Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on this historic achievement and to express our sincere respect and deep appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Rabab Fatima, PR of Bangladesh and to H.E. Ambassador Olivier Maes, PR of Luxembourg for the immense efforts, they and their delegations have exerted throughout the consultations on the Progress Declaration. It is truly remarkable that we managed to have a very balanced and carefully drafted outcome document that truly reflects the hard work of all delegations.

We welcome the adoption of the Progress Declaration, particularly its reaffirmation of the GCM, and its expressive outlining of the challenges and gaps in implementation and recommended actions that would accelerate that. As a GCM Champion country, Egypt remains committed to the advancement and implementation of this important instrument.

Mr. President,

The link between migration and development continues to grow every day. It has become evident that migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination and return, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. We therefore welcome the important reference in paragraph 29 on the need to promote sustainable development, generate employment, bridge the digital divides and empower youth, the largest asset for many countries present here today, including my own.

As such, Egypt also welcomes the important reference to strengthening our efforts to enhance and diversify the availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration, particularly to facilitate academic and labor mobility and decent work and reflects demographic and labor market realities and optimizes education opportunities.

Mr. President,

Egypt welcomes the important references outlined in paragraph 12 of the Declaration, which expresses our genuine concern about the impact of financial and economic crises, poverty, health emergencies, food insecurity on international migration and migrants, as well as sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation, such as desertification, land degradation, drought, floods, water scarcity and sea level rise. As a country and a member of a region undergoing extremely high levels of water stress, Egypt recognizes the devastating implications these factors can have on achieving sustainable livelihoods and fulfilling personal aspirations of individuals.

The strong unity the UN displayed today in support of this paragraph, paragraph 12, is an encouraging message that more needs to be done, particularly linking the implementation of the GCM with Agenda 2030 and working together to address factors that threaten the livelihoods and well-being of everyone.

We deeply regret that an attempt was made to challenge this paragraph despite the prolonged discussions and overstretched flexibility all delegations showed in the consultations. For its part, Egypt participated, in good faith, in discussions on the best formulation for this and other paragraphs and we stood ready to work with all delegations to ensure that we speak with one voice. We are grateful to all delegations who worked on ensuring this paragraph is retained.

Indeed, Mr. President, floods and water scarcity are two realities that affect many countries and regions and have overwhelmingly negative impacts on the livelihoods of millions of people. UN resolutions and reports highlight that 700 million people could be displaced due to water scarcity and we must be reminded that more than 2.3 billion people currently reside in water-stressed countries. The GCM reflects our important commitment to better map, understand, predict and address migration movements, such as those that may result from sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation and other precarious situations; and to also develop coherent approaches to address the challenges of migration movements in the context of sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters.

Mr. President,

Today is a truly historic day. We commend all delegations for the remarkable work and achievement, and as a GCM Champion country we are truly proud that the United Nations can speak today in one voice in support for migrants and their important roles in our world. Egypt remains committed to advancing international discussions and negotiations on this crucial matter.

Finally, Egypt believes that the term ‘multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination’ used in paragraph 49 does not represent agreed language and maintains the view that the term ‘all forms of discrimination’ was a more appropriate terminology. Egypt, therefore, disassociates itself from this terminology.

Thank you Mr. President.