



**Libya Statement for the 70th session
The ExCom of the UNHCR's Program**

October 10, 2019

Mr. President

High Commissioner

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is the absolute interest of my country, Libya, to follow and interact with the many current global issues that pertain to Displacement, Migration, Refugees, and Statelessness, as my country, is indeed, in the midst of many of these current challenges and is trying, under very difficult and extraordinary circumstances, to work with the various stakeholders on managing the challenges.

Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the ongoing good work that our IOM and UNCHR partners and their on-the-ground teams are doing, under the current difficult and life threatening conditions, to attend to the needs of civilians and help in the resettlement of migrants in safe countries.

We, also recognize and appreciate the assistance, both Niger and Rwanda have extended to host migrants in their resettlement process. It is through collaborative efforts between our international partners, our regional partners and the Libyan Government, that we are able to lessen, to some degree, the suffering of innocent people.

Historically, Libya, has always been the gateway for Africa to Europe, where the aspirations of tens of thousands of migrant people, led them to make their journey passing through Libya, aiming to reach the northern shores of the Mediterranean.

But let's also not forget, that Europe had also found Libya as its gate to Africa, where many of the early explorations of Africa in the late 1700s and early 1800s, by particularly the British and French, began out of their Tripoli based consulates for conducting Sahara exploration caravans to reach the various African emirates.

Libya appreciates and values its geopolitical positioning to be a bridge of explorations, connections and the gateway for reaching aspirations of generations of people.

However, as mentioned earlier, Libya is enduring and facing tough challenges to deal with the ever-growing issues that accompany such people movement, whether voluntary or forced, and this had directly impacted the country's ability to manage and serve their needs.

Mr. President, in his opening presentation, The High Commissioner, shared some very important cross cutting issues that affect the lives of civilians, IDPs, and Migrants. Of those are; climate change, development, security and rule of law, political stability, and orderly migration processes.

There is, however, one other critical and important factor, that is very pertinent to the current Libya situation and directly impacts the wellbeing and safety of civilians (Libyans and foreigners alike), the IDPs, Migrants and the more venerable segments of the population. That is, the meddling and UNILATERAL intervention by some nations in the internal affairs of the country, which is escalating the ongoing armed