Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues!

It is a great honour to be with you today, and to address this distinguished platform which embodies co-operation and dialogue, shared visions and common interests, and concrete mechanisms – the pre-requisites of jointly addressing the phenomenon of migration within the context of the Mediterranean.

In my role and capacity as Director General of ICMPD - the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, allow me to begin by extending my gratitude and appreciation to the Great Jamahiriyah for hosting the 7th Ministerial Conference of the 5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean.

In particular, I would like to thank our partners and colleagues in the General People's Committee for Public Security and the General People's Committee for External Communication and International Co-operation, most notably His Excellency Mr. Abdul-Fattah Younes Obaidi and His Excellency Mr. Mousa Ahmad Kousa.

My intervention is aimed at highlighting the central elements of addressing irregular migration. In doing so, I will reaffirm the role of ICMPD within this context of Mediterranean migration.
Ladies and gentlemen,

It lies at the core of our mandate to support countries in effectively dealing with the consequences and challenges brought about by the movement of people between countries, between continents.

If we read the signs well, we will be experiencing substantial movements of people between our two continents and between the countries represented at this table specifically. There is a clear need and clear interest in the countries of the South and of the North to come together in jointly finding the right policies and the right mechanisms of managing migration in accordance with their priorities. Economic reasons, demographic considerations, social requirements as well as security concerns are all factors in the complex migration equation.

BUT,

We should not forget, that migration is about people,
about those people who are on the move,
about those people who remain and
those who receive migrants in their communities.

We need to find solutions that are suitable for all of them.

Therefore, frameworks like the 5+5 and other migration dialogues are of such great importance. By bringing together all available knowledge and know-how, they provide the opportunity to better understand of what is going on and to jointly agree on the steps and measures to be taken.

Ladies and gentlemen,
As you are aware, ICMPD is an inter-governmental organisation which strives for comprehensive, sustainable and future-oriented migration governance. We do this based on solid evidence and in partnership with the relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international levels.

We are active in fostering co-operation and dialogue in the realm of migration since nearly two decades.

On the basis of knowledge and dialogue, we have implemented concrete operational, and solution-oriented, projects and activities also within the Mediterranean region, e.g. a very successful project which resulted in “A Comprehensive Survey of Migration Flows and Institutional Capabilities in Libya” or the STREDECA-project which aimed at the "Strengthening of the Reception and Detention Capacities in Lebanon”.

... and we continue to do so, at the request of our partners – and therefore I am proud to say that we have established good cooperation and partnership with basically all countries of the 5+5 Dialogue. These areas of co-operation comprise capacity building, adoption of best practices, and networking between countries of origin, transit and destination.

Moreover this “partnership-approach” has enabled ICMPD to engage more directly and assertively in migration through leading unique initiatives such as the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM), a migration dialogue aimed at providing a platform for fruitful dialogue on migration issues in the greater Mediterranean region on both the effective combat against irregular migration as well as addressing its root causes.

Libya as well as all the other states of the 5+5 have been represented in this forum and continue to actively engage directly with ICMPD to further promote the impact of the MTM Dialogue. As a ‘Dialogue in Action’, the MTM Dialogue has been able to play its part in collecting the information in its i-Map project which is necessary to define concrete actions
but also to address additional topics such as “migration and development” and to provide the base for future oriented analysis..

In addition, ICMPD is actively supporting the Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME), which Libya is chairing together with Spain.

ICMPD, together with our friends from Spain (FIIAPP) and Senegal (UNIDEP), is providing the light support structure of this Partnership. In this particular context, I would like to draw your attention to the recent Africa-EU Summit, held here in Libya where we are going to work on the implementation of the Action Plan 2011-2013, and I hope, we can count on your active engagement in this framework.

Finally, and certainly not least, when it comes to concrete operational cooperation, I’d like to recall ICMPD’s Libya-based projects in the framework of our quadripartite cooperation agreement on Libya, which was signed in spring 2008 between ICMPD and the Libya-based International Organization for Peace, Care and Relief (IOPCR), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Italian Council for Refugees – (CIR).

Please let me take this opportunity to address my special thanks to IOPCR and its president, Ing. Khaled Khweilda for its continuous efforts to support and facilitate our work.

This fruitful partnership has most recently produced results in terms of creating new initiatives which are currently under discussion between ICMPD and both Libyan and European partners e.g. in promoting Libya’s capacity in document security.

Ladies and gentlemen,

these are just a few individual activities that flow from a concerted and action oriented dialogue on migration. And with these few thoughts and examples I will come to the end of my intervention. It is clear that there is so much more to say, but there is even more to do and achieve together.
It is my strong belief that the time is ripe for making progress together and taking the way we work together to the next level. We should join forces in addressing and curbing irregular migration and its negative impacts – for all involved.

The 5+5 Dialogue, to which ICMPD has contributed and promoted throughout the years, provides the opportunity to engage more directly and fulfil this objective of deepening our co-operation

Distinguished colleagues, let me close by reconfirming my commitment to support you in this endeavour and let me put the good services of ICMPD at your disposal.

I thank you very much for your attention.