

**Statement of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) regarding the recent drowning of African migrants to Europe in the Mediterranean Sea**

**Jeddah 23 April 2015:** The IPHRC is dismayed by the recent unfortunate drowning of thousands of African Migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. These innocent people were fleeing their countries for diverse socio-economic and security reasons forcing them to take this dangerous route to Europe in search of better prospects for them and their families' future, safety and economic prosperity.

The callous response from relevant authorities to take necessary steps to ensure better vigilance has led to unnecessary loss of thousands of innocent lives, which is irreversible. Inadequacy of response both from the relevant international and European authorities to prevent such a loss is regrettable and deplorable.

IPHRC urges the international community including relevant UN bodies to show compassion by facing up to their international responsibility and immediately take all necessary and appropriate remedial measures to ensure that such tragedies do not happen again. It also emphasized the need to addressing the root causes of the problem in a more coherent and systematic way (such as reasons that lead these peoples to leave their homelands and embark on such dangerous journeys) rather than limiting themselves to tackling the symptoms alone.