

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to congratulate you, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium and Ms. Kate O'Malley of Australia on your elections. I am also grateful to the Council and the African Group for my election as first vice president of the Council. I am also thankful to my predecessor Ambassador Manzou of Zimbabwe for his service and the Ambassador of Japan for his kind nomination and the representative of the USA for seconding the nominations. I look forward to working with you, other colleagues in the Bureau and the Director General and his colleagues in discharge of our responsibilities.

The Ethiopian delegation endorses the statement made by Angola on behalf of the African Group.

We welcome Turkmenistan, the Republic of Iceland, the Republic of Fiji, and the Republic of Marshall Islands as members and the ECOWAS Commission, UNICEF, International Medical Corps, Terre des Hommes International Federation and CARMA Asia as observers to this Organization.

We thank the Director General for his comprehensive report on the work of the Organization for the year 2013.

The Ethiopian delegation takes this opportunity to express its deep concern on the deteriorating situation of migrant workers in some countries. This has seriously affected many nationalities from developing countries, including Ethiopian nationals. We strongly condemn these grave human rights violations against migrant workers. These migrant workers suffer abuse and multiple forms of discrimination at the hands of traffickers and smugglers, in their places

of work, in public places and at times by those responsible for law enforcement. The dedication and sacrifice of these migrant workers in accepting menial jobs, which are no longer attractive to local workers is hardly appreciated. They deserve gratitude and respect. Instead, they are often treated with unprecedented of cruelty. Local medias target migrants with xenophobic and irresponsible campaigns.

It is high time that perpetrators of such outrageous violations are held accountable. It is also crucial that countries of origin, transit and destination intensify their collaboration to enhance protection of migrants and prevent abuses. IOM and the relevant organs of the UN should discharge their responsibilities in safeguarding the life and dignity of migrants.

The obligation to ensure respect for the human rights of migrants in difficult and complex situations require care, understanding and strong commitment for human rights, and human dignity regardless of the status of migrants. Migrants as victims of different forms of abuse and mistreatment should not be denied of access to services and redress in the host countries. It is crucial that IOM intensifies its advocacy for better protection of migrants around the world. I am grateful to the Director General of IOM for giving this matter due attention in his presentation to the Council.

The Government of Ethiopia is actively working with host countries and organizations such as IOM to repatriate its nationals and reintegrate them in the society. I would like to express our gratitude to IOM for the support it has been providing in the repatriation and reception of Ethiopian migrants workers.

The Government of Ethiopia has established the National Council on led by the Deputy Prime Minister to combat and halt human trafficking. The Council is composed of Ministers, Presidents of National Regional State, Heads of City administrations, religious leaders, youth and other relevant associations. Its objectives include, combating human trafficking, coordinating the efforts to prosecute and bring human traffickers and their accomplices to justice, protecting and promoting the rights of Ethiopian migrants and victims of trafficking, creating conditions conducive for migrants to participate in the development opportunities in their country.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ethiopia has embraced migration as an important element in its development strategy and has adopted policies aimed at improving the Government's capacity to manage migration in line with the country's development priorities. This includes the Diaspora policy, which provides a comprehensive framework for the engagement with Ethiopia Diaspora.

In this connection, Ethiopia congratulates IOM for the rich exchange of views and experiences at the June 2013 Diaspora Ministerial Conference of the International Dialogue on Migration.

Ethiopia has also enhanced its participation in the GFMD Summits, through active contribution to roundtable thematic issues. We look forward to participating in the 2014 GFMD Summit, under the Chairmanship of Sweden.

IOM has been instrumental in shaping the global discourse on migration and development. The Organization should continue to play a leading role in the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development and contribute to the inclusion of migration as a crosscutting theme in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

I thank you