

**STATEMENT BY KENYA AT THE 103RD SESSION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)  
GOVERNING COUNCIL: GENEVA, 26TH - 29TH NOVEMBER 2013**

**Chairperson,  
Director-General of the IOM,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

Kenya wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate the chairperson and members of the Bureau on their election.

We align ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Angola on behalf of the Africa Group.

**Chairperson,**

International migration remains a major concern for most of us, in view of its impact on the lives of many, who by both choice and circumstances live away from their homes of origin. In handing Ambassador Lacy Swing, yet another term of office recently, we once again congratulate him and look upon him and his able team to continue with their efforts in transforming the lives of migrants who have benefited enormously from the work of this organization.

Kenya takes this opportunity to welcome the new IOM member states of Iceland, Marshal Islands, Fiji and Turkmenistan. Their entry further strengthens the organization and now permits amendments to the Constitution.

We are optimistic that despite increasing challenges in the management of migration, gains already made will be sustained and we shall together continue with the fight to ensure lives of value for all migrants.

**Chairperson,**

Kenya, however believes that this shall only be possible, if we objectively address hurdles that keep recurring due to lack of resources, capacity and political goodwill. We support the Director Generals' intent to develop guideposts, under the themes; Continuity, Coherence and Change, to be able to achieve set priorities for the organization, for quality service to members states.

We are encouraged by the recent developments, particularly the results of the 2nd UN High-Level Dialogue on migration and Development, with its Declaration setting the tempo for extra-hard work and a challenge for adequate preparation for the Post- 2015 Development Agenda.

The negotiated outcome was a clearance of the stumbling blocks that have sometimes hampered the efforts of the organization in furthering its course on international migration. We therefore urge IOM to enhance its cooperation and a consultative approach with relevant stakeholders, particularly the Global Forum

for Migration and Development (GFMD) and the Global Migration Group (GMG), in order to effectively discharge its mandate. The establishment of a working group to explore improvement of IOM relations with the United Nations system is therefore very welcome.

**Chairperson,**

Kenya believes that as member states, we must unwaveringly support IOM's efforts if we expect better service. In this regard, we must strive to meet our obligations to the organization. While we are cognisant of the financial challenges that have affected the global economy, we are encouraged by efforts of Member States that have lived to their commitment in ensuring their contributions are paid on time.

We also take this opportunity to thank those Member States and development partners that shoulder the heaviest responsibility towards budgetary support, which has enabled IOM to remain afloat and able to respond to constituent needs even in the current times of financial uncertainty and the tight fiscal space within which most Governments are forced to operate. However, for IOM to remain the Global Migration Agency, and respond adequately to the High-Level Dialogue Declaration, its funding must be solid.

Kenya notes that over the last 18 years, the administrative part of the budget has been subject to a zero nominal growth, which has contributed to an overstretched core structure and restrictive budget policy. Support units have also become overwhelmed, lacking sufficient capacity and increasing the risk of inadequate oversight for efficient performance. These risks, we agree continue to negatively impact on service delivery capacity of the Organization, which necessitates the proposed budgetary increases.

We therefore support the Draft Resolutions on Funding of the Core Structure and on Programme and Budget for 2014, and wish to thank the Working Group on Budget Reform, under the able leadership of Ambassador Crombrugge of Belgium their tireless efforts in coming up with the proposals.

**Chairperson,**

As we conclude, we wish to thank the office for the Gender Coordination Report the three initiatives set out in the report are key roadmaps towards gender equality society. We appreciate IOM's effort in embracing a United Nations system-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. It is empirically evident that the developing world has suffered multiple drawbacks in trying to find adequate space for women in the United Nations system.

While we commend the IOM for its efforts, it would however be useful and convincing to understand annual budgetary commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women, as well as clear and specific detailed data on the presence of women at senior levels in the IOM. We look forward to seeing these under the

rubric change that the Director General undertakes to initiate in the follow-up to the High-Level Dialogue and the 'three C themes' of continuity, coherence and Change.

Finally, Kenya undertakes to remain committed towards supporting the IOM in its endeavors to manage international migration and for the improvement of migrant's livelihoods.

I thank you.