



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**Statement to the 103rd Session of the Council of
the International Organization for Migration
(IOM) by the Zambian delegation.**

Geneva, 26th to 29th November 2013

Mr. Chairperson,
Honorable Ministers present,
Excellencies,
Director General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Zambian delegation and indeed on my own behalf I wish to join other delegations who have spoken before me in welcoming the new members to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and to take this opportunity to Congratulate H.E Ambassador Luis Enrique Basagoita from Peru, on his election as Chairperson of the 103rd Session of the Council. I also wish to extend our congratulations to the two Vice Chairpersons and the Rapporteur on their election to the Bureau.

On a sad note, Zambia joins the rest of the world and indeed IOM in wishing the Government of Philippines and its people well as they recover from the typhoon disaster which has left well over 5,000 people dead and many more homeless. We commend IOM for the role it has played in the Philippines in alleviating the suffering of the survivors of this natural disaster.

Mr. Chairperson,

Zambia aligns herself to the African Group Statement which was presented by Angola on behalf of other African countries and congratulates the Director General, Ambassador William Lacy Swing for the highly informative report presented to the Council on the existing Global migration situation and analysis of the challenges faced by IOM in the past year, the efforts being undertaken to overcome the identified challenges and the vision for the year ahead. My delegation is confident that IOM possess the desired rare expertise which will

make it possible to overcome the unprecedented prevailing human mobility and migrant governance problems.

Mr. Chairperson,

Zambia applauds the different strategies that IOM has embarked upon to respond to the increased pressure on the current operating environment and will continue to recognize the support the Zambian Government continues to receive from IOM through mostly the Ministry of Home Affairs in curbing Human Trafficking, Immigration and Border management and Movement, Emergency and Post-Crisis Migration Management. Zambia will continue to demonstrate its commitment to the protection of the rights of migrants especially the vulnerable mostly the unaccompanied minors, women and children.

Mr. Chairperson,

In an effort to come up with measures to protect migrants and in the spirit of cooperation, Zambia hosted last week, on 19-20 November, 2013 in Lusaka, a Pan African Conference on human trafficking, in partnership with the International Labour Organization. We would like to echo its final communiqué, where participants agreed that labour mobility is an important strategy to cope with the lack of livelihoods and that measures to prevent human trafficking should enable people to migrate safely and to find productive and freely chosen employment. Zambia commends the cooperation and coordination efforts between international organisations agencies, as exemplified by the United Nations Joint Programme on Human Trafficking in Zambia, implemented jointly by ILO, UNICEF and IOM.

Mr. Chairperson,

As you may be aware, Zambia being party to the 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees; the Government is strongly committed to providing durable solutions to refugees who have lived in Zambia for so many years. We wish to recognize the pivotal role of IOM in supporting the Zambian Government mobilize resources in order to ensure a successful implementation of local integration which Zambia has started to implement as well as other durable solutions such as voluntary repatriation and resettlement.

In implementing local integration program, Zambia has made steady progress in the issuance of legal documents to the 10, 000 former Angolan refugees who are to be locally integrated in Zambia as pledged by the Zambian Government. In this regard, Zambia is calling on the international community including traditional donors to support the exercise in financing the socio - economic projects that have been identified to help those that are being integrated in the Zambian society. IOM has been a reliable partner in so far as supporting repatriation and resettlement of refugees as durable solutions.

Mr. Chairperson,

The need for IOM to foster partnerships cannot be over emphasized, in this regard Zambia wishes to applaud IOM in its continued efforts to look to new partnerships and strengthen existing ones to enable it meet the current challenges being experienced in migrant protection and assistance. We particularly wish to appreciate the partnership of IOM with UNHCR and the entire International Community in the area of finding durable solutions for refugees, asylum seekers and other irregular migrants. Further, it is the desire of the Zambian Government

to closely work with the IOM in building capacity of government officials in the Ministry of Home Affairs in ensuring that profiling of the mixed migrants is done within the realm of acceptable international standards.

Mr. Chairperson,

We look forward to further working with the IOM in Zambia to ensure the achievement of the three 3Cs Priority principles (Continuity, Coherence and Change) as highlighted by the Director General. We are strongly convinced that commitment to providing the desired services for the betterment of migrants, the protection of their rights and considering them in the context of being instrumental to economic development both in countries of destination and origin is significant to avoiding unwarranted incidents.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, Zambia wishes to applaud IOM for its active participation at the High Level Dialogue (HLD) meeting at the UNGA in New York where pragmatic principles and guidelines for the protection of migrants were to be derived. The continued taking forward of this debate and in particular the implementation of the consensus declaration by IOM and the entire Global Migration Group (GMG) will thus be inevitable and a welcome mandate.

I thank you.