



**NIGERIA'S STATEMENT AT THE 106TH COUNCIL SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

GENEVA NOVEMBER 24 – 27, 2015

Mr Chairman,

Let me first of all congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of the 106th Session of the IOM council. Nigeria aligns herself with the statement of the African group delivered by Ethiopia. We commend the Director General, Amb. William Lacy Swing and the entire IOM administration for their efforts in promoting better management of Migration especially during this period of very serious migration crisis in the world.

Mr. Chair,

Earlier this year, Nigerian Government formally adopted a new National Policy on Migration to promote management of migration in the country. The implementation plan of the policy will provide an appropriate legal framework for monitoring and regulating internal and international migration, and proper collection and dissemination of migration data.

The policy also addresses issues related to diaspora mobilization, border management, decent treatment of migrants and internally displaced persons, asylum seekers and the role of civil society in migration management, in order to ensure efficient management of migration in

Nigeria. We thank IOM for its support of the Technical Working Group (TWG) made up of ministries, department and agencies, non – state actors, social partners, academia and development partners working on issues related to migration to develop the new policy.

Mr. Chair

As a major country of origin, transit and destination, Nigeria shares the belief in the strong linkages between migration and national development as migration can be beneficial to both the sending and receiving states. Migration has contributed in achieving developmental targets in many parts of the world today. These include: funding investment in human capital through education and health care; supporting the creation of businesses and jobs; contributing to the transfer of knowledge, skills, and idea; and promoting investments and trade flows between countries of origin and destination.

In this regard, we encourage the Director – General to continue with his engagements with relevant bodies or international organizations to ensure that costs of remittances as well as recruitment costs are drastically reduced as this will benefit migrants and their families.

Chairman,

Major challenge facing migration today remains restrictive migration policies. Greater percentage of migrants are forced to leave their homes, not because they desire such, but because of other factors such as conflict, humanitarian emergencies or climate change induced disasters like flooding, drought and desertification.

In this regard, we commend the step taken by IOM to recognize the new migration trend through the creation of a Department on Environment Climate Change in the organization, and urge broader recognition of this fact through reaching a binding agreement on Climate Change during COP 21 in Paris in a few weeks that will help address the devastating impacts of climate change in some vulnerable parts of the world.

To conclude Mr. Chair,

My delegation welcomes the ongoing dialogue between the UN and IOM and hope to see the outcome of the Director- General's meeting with Deputy Secretary General in the coming months resulting to increased strengthening of IOM to perform its functions as a leading international organization promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.

I thank you.