



KENYA

STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR ANDREW M. KIHURANI
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT THE 108TH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION MIGRATION (IOM)
HELD FROM 28TH NOVEMBER – 1ST DECEMBER, 2017
AT THE PALAIS DES NATIONS.

Chairperson,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and pleasure for me to be here today to deliver this statement by Kenya, during this 108 Session of the Council. This comes on the backdrop of two significant events – the consultation process that will lead to the adoption of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the first anniversary of the IOM within the United Nations System. This indeed, has placed migration firmly on top of the international agenda, going forwards.

Kenya aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ghana on behalf of the African Group. We also congratulate the Chair of the Council, along with his two Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur, on their election. We assure you of Kenya's continued support during your term.

Allow me to also congratulate the Republics of Cuba and the Cook Islands on their admission as new members of the IOM, as well as the Republic of Kuwait and various Organizations, which have been admitted as observers to the IOM. We look forward to successful cooperation with all of you.

Chairperson,

We applaud the Director General for his insightful report, based on the theme of continuity, coherence and change. We believe that these themes will safely guide the organization to reach its intended mission and vision. We are however particularly concerned with the upsurge in politics that has espoused fear and intensified anti-migrant and anti-refugee sentiments. This must be addressed. As we have stated on several occasions before, the public discourse on migration still needs to turn to a more balanced and historically accurate narrative.

Chairperson,

Kenya is a source, transit and destination country of migrants, and in our long-standing relationship, Kenya has been a beneficiary of support from the IOM. Most recently, the IOM lent support to Kenya's National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) and accorded it the opportunity to have a National discourse on the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration. The National Coordination Mechanism combines key Government

Ministries and Departments with migration related functions at central and devolved levels, and meets regularly to discuss pertinent issues on migration.

At the workshop held on 17th October, the National Coordination Mechanism under the guidance of the IOM, met with key civil society stakeholders including academia, research institutions and an interfaith umbrella organisation, in order to reach a common Kenyan position on the Global Compact on Migration.

The workshop revolved around the six thematic areas of the Global Compact and took cognizance of the importance of engaging stakeholders with migration-related functions, to facilitate participation in an inclusive migration dialogue, aimed at developing National, Regional and International positions on the Compact. The workshop further strengthened our endeavour to ensure that a holistic and comprehensive approach and a strengthened migration governance is adopted that will go a long way in protecting and supporting migrants.

In that regard, Chairperson, Kenya also takes cognizance of the bold steps that have been taken by the African Union (AU) and the Inter-Governmental Agency on Development (IGAD) in coming up with guiding frameworks for dialogue, partnerships and structural support to the National Coordination Mechanisms on Migration, in order to address migration related challenges. This has led to the development of a draft Common African Position reached during a meeting held in Addis Ababa on 26th and 27th October 2017, which

will be considered for ratification in January 2018, by the African Heads of State and Government.

Chairperson,

It is now recognized that South-South migration has eclipsed South-North movement, while the relationship between migration and development has also taken an important direction. Arising from this nexus, Kenya looks forward to having the views and the needs of the Global South, integrated in the Compact. One of the key issues that characterizes the position of the south is the recognition of a wide population in need of international protection and the new realities involving mixed flows of migrants, stateless people, migrant children and adolescents, victims or potential victims of trafficking, natural disasters, climate change, violence and psychological trauma suffered during the migration process. We cannot over emphasize the need for an age, gender and diversity approach for effective protection policies that respond to the specific needs of each of these groups.

Chairperson,

Kenya wishes to congratulate the IOM on having completed over a year of strengthened coordination and collaboration with the United Nations (UN) and its continued value addition to multilateral frameworks and processes through the provision of migration related expertise. However, Kenya recalls its support for Resolution No, 1309, in which it was stated that the IOM should retain its

attribute as a responsive, efficient, cost effective, non-normative and independent agency.

We further recognized your invaluable technical and policy expertise and support, during the GCM consultations, and we therefore, wish to reiterate that IOM should continue providing this invaluable support during the stock taking phase, the 2018 Intergovernmental Conference and beyond. We will be in support of any institutional changes required to fulfil this state-guided mandate in the service of migrants and governments.

It would however be appreciated if more in-depth information is regularly provided on the benefits of this relationship.

Chairperson,

Finally, in terms of human resource, Kenya wishes to urge for a more representative recruitment that provides for a means of appointment that takes into account various geographic, economic and social interests of its constituents groups and regions including gender representation.

I thank you