



109th Session of the IOM Council

Statement by

Ethiopian Delegation

November, 201

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director General of the IOM

Ambassadors, Distinguished Members of the Council and Representatives of international Organizations,

As we all well aware, this year's Council Session is convened at an important juncture, at a time when the international community is poised to adopt in two weeks time the Global Compact on Migration. Ethiopia wishes therefore to highlight that the Compact provides us with enormous opportunity to enhance international cooperation and migration governance at all levels. Hence, while the successful conclusion of the negotiations a remarkable achievement on its own, Ethiopia firmly believes that given pressing challenges in managing migration, a strong sense of urgency should guide our future actions in implementing the Global Compact on Migration.

In that spirit, IOM therefore should take the implementation of the compact as its foremost responsibility and ensure that the activities of all relevant UN agencies are properly streamlined in coherent and coordinated way. It is also important the UN support programs to member states are implemented in synergy and complementarity. Ethiopia is therefore convinced that IOM needs to undertake the necessary changes in its organizational structure, including improving its core funding and boosting its policy and protection capacity to better support in particular developing countries in development of migration policy, building effective partnership at all levels, data gathering and dissemination and strong coordination at a national level.

Mr. Chairperson

At the national level, Ethiopia has undertaken significant steps to strengthen migration governance and harnessing the contributions of its large Diaspora community abroad. In this regard, the recent political dispensation initiated by H.E Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, has paved the path for increased Diaspora engagement in the national development efforts. Accordingly, the Government, in collaboration with members of the Diaspora world-wide, launched the Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund with the aim of mobilizing funds to finance development projects in support of the needy and disadvantage people throughout the country. The Fund is warmly embraced by Ethiopians across the globe and has managed to mobilize over 350,000 USD since its official launch last month. In addition to that, while there is significant rise in remittances, high cost of transfer and ensuring financial inclusion of communities remain a challenge.

On the other hand, in a bid to ensure safe and regular labor migration, Ethiopia is undertaking negotiations with several countries such as UAE, Lebanon and Bahrain to sign bilateral labour agreements. We have also put in practice the employer pays principle, the use of model labor contract and stringent system of licensing and supervision of private employment agencies. The Government is also enforcing mandatory skills training and pre-departure orientation to better protect rights of migrant workers. In this regard, creating a platform for cooperation between East African labor sending countries and destination countries in the Gulf states would be vital to ensure better protection to migrant workers.

Mr. Chairperson

Despite these various encouraging efforts, challenges continue to emanate from human trafficking and smuggling and irregular migration. As a result, thousands of Ethiopian migrants continue to be deported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia. The sheer big number of returnees coupled with absence of commensurate programs for livelihoods have made their economic integration into their communities a difficult task. In addition, low level of awareness about the crime of

human trafficking, absence of robust sub-regional coordination in border control and lack of funds rehabilitation of victims of trafficking are also challenges we are currently confronting with.

Moreover, Ethiopia has also experienced massive internal displacement due to adverse impact of climate changes and communal clashes which forced a total of 2.8 million people to leave their localities. The Government, however, alongside with the UN and its humanitarian partners, is working hard to respond to this IDP situation by adopting the New Way of Working through coordinated efforts in emergency response, durable solution and peace building areas. These efforts are paying off significantly in terms of returning them to their original communities and that the resettled persons today stand at 927,000 IDPs. However, the challenges remain quite daunting, in particular in protection gaps and availing food and non-food relief items.

Mr. Chairperson

Finally, Ethiopia wishes to reiterate the need for IOM to put the implementation of the Compact, after its adoption in Marrakech, on top of its agenda and make the necessary changes accordingly. The Council Members and the larger global community, in our view also need to be committed to support these efforts of IOM. Ethiopia affirms its readiness to work closely with the IOM and members of the Council and other stakeholders to fully implement the Compact with the view to speedy addressing the challenges of migration management. In closing, Ethiopia wishes to thank the IOM for its valuable support and underlines its readiness to further build on the excellent cooperation to make migration safe, regular and orderly.

Thank You!