



**STATEMENT BY MR. ROBERT K.V. KAHENDAGUZA, DEPUTY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UN GENEVA
AT THE 109TH SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL,
29 NOVEMBER 2018, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**Chairperson,
Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,**

As it is the first time we are addressing this august body, allow me to join those who spoke before us in congratulating Ambassador Negash Kibret, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia, for being elected as Chairperson of the 109th Session of the IOM Council. By the same token allow me to thank the outgoing Chair - Ambassador Marta Maurás of Chile for a sterling job he did during his tenure. I also commend the Secretariat, under the able leadership of the Director General, Mr. Antonio Vitorino and his team for the excellent preparations of this Council meeting. On behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania, I wish to express our full support to you – Chairperson, your entire bureau and the new IOM leadership as you preside over the affairs of this important Organisation.

Chairperson

I am pleased to state that Tanzania continues to enjoy excellent working relationship with the IOM. It is a cherished relationship which goes back many years and one which we are keen on upholding. In this connection, we are grateful to the IOM and other

development partners for the invaluable support they continue to provide to the African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) which is in Moshi, Tanzania. We invite all African countries to take full advantage of this capacity building facility in the area of migration and management.

We also wish to pay tribute to IOM for the outstanding job it has been doing in fulfilment of its mandate with respect to Tanzania including supporting Tanzania in repatriating victims of human trafficking and voluntary return exercise for the Burundian refugees. However, we have noted with concern that in the programme and budget for 2019 which has been adopted by this Council, there is no money earmarked for the repatriation of the Burundian refugees from Tanzania. This doesn't bode well for the exercise which has been beset by acute shortage of funding. And it certainly doesn't bode well for the more than 20,000 Burundians who have registered and are willing to voluntarily go home but are unable to do so because of lack of funding.

Thus, we appeal to IOM and the International Community at large to continue supporting the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi to successfully complete the ongoing repatriation exercise.

Chairperson,

In conclusion, allow me to reaffirm the commitment of the United Republic of Tanzania to the ideals and objectives of IOM. Tanzania will continue working with IOM and the International community to ensure that the Organization plays a pivotal role on migration for development and contributes to global efforts on peace and stability.

I thank you for your kind attention