

**STATEMENT BY KENYA AT THE ONE HUNDREDTH SESSION
OF THE IOM COUNCIL : 5TH DECEMBER – 7TH DECEMBER 2011**

**Chairperson,
The Director-General of the IOM
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates**

Kenya wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate the chairman and members of the Bureau on their election. I assure you of Kenya's support.

At the outset, we wish to thank the Mayor of the City Geneva, Mr. Pierre Maudet for his kind welcoming remarks and for his generosity in hosting us.

Kenya aligns herself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Zambia on behalf of the Africa Group.

Chairperson,

Kenya prides herself in her association with IOM and its growth over the years, and now culminating in its 60th Anniversary celebrations. Congratulations! This also marks Kenya's 26 years of successive partnership with the IOM, and as the first African state to join the organization.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the Director General, Ambassador Lacy Swing and his entire IOM team for their tireless efforts in steering the organization consistently towards meeting its noble objectives.

It is in this spirit of commitment, we believe, that the IOM has managed to meet its obligations and continued to deliver on its mandate effectively to its members in the recent past, particularly in the face of the crises of the Arab spring, famine, droughts and floods in many parts of the world including Kenya's northern frontier.

We further commend IOM for this steadfastness and wish to thank it particularly for its invaluable support in the resettlement of thousands of refugees who are always affected by these calamities in our country.

Chairperson,

Proprietorships and Partnerships are avenues for shared thoughts, experiences and agreed action and are therefore important in seeking for solutions in managing migration.

Kenya therefore welcomes all the new member^{7/2/2018} and observer⁸ states to this partnership with IOM. We are particularly happy and delighted with Africa's expansive network move that has seen 8 African States and 3 Regional Economic Community blocs now a family of the of IOM community.

This growth certainly boosts the regions' strength as well as enhancing and enriching our engagement in matters and concerns of migration management and development and international dialogue. We especially are now confident that the implementation of the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons within the EAC member states will be a success.

We welcome them all on their admission and look forward to their fruitful contribution in strengthening the organisation's capacity.

Chairperson,

Kenya welcomes the Director Generals' concise and clear report, which provides a useful insight on the history of the organization.

It is important that as the IOM family, we understand our evolution, growth and challenges that confront us, in order to better strategize and manage migration trends in future. This also enlists commitment in honouring our obligations to the organization, particularly on ratification of supporting adopted instruments.

Kenya concurs with the Director Generals' 'three 'Ps' approach which we believe will bolster members' dedication to and support of the IOM. This would guarantee our sustainability of the organization.

Chairperson,

Member States today encounter changing global migration trends and challenges that require more elaborate strategies to tackle. Formulation of relevant policies that are coherent, their timely reviews as well as effective implementation in

collaboration with origin and destination countries will be required more than ever before.

Dynamism is inevitable, and frequent spontaneous conflict situations and unpredictable natural disasters have caused untold suffering to hundreds of thousands of people within very short moments. The proposal for the establishment of a Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism by IOM is therefore a very important and timely development as it will effectively enhance the ability of IOM's capacity in handling future migration challenges. Kenya strongly supports this endeavour.

Kenya also welcomes the launch of the World Migration Report 2011, "*Communicating Effectively about Migration*". This report advocates for effective information and communication as a vital tool for the management of orderly migration and development paradigm shift.

Chairperson,

Kenya concurs with the strategy envisaged in the "*setting the course for the 65th anniversary*" and wishes to encourage IOM to help member states pursue and actualize this approach.

We reiterate our commitment to working with IOM and with other relevant stakeholders and will strive to support, as it has always done, the objectives for which the organisation stands for.

With regard to the Acceptance of the Amendments to the IOM Constitution as contained in Council Resolution No. 997, Kenya is engaged in consultation with the relevant and competent authorities on the way forward.

Finally, Chairperson, Kenya hopes that the ongoing dialogue on the status of the Regional Office in Nairobi will be settled judiciously and amicably. The Government of Kenya is willing to consider any proposal.

I thank you.