



STATEMENT

by the

**Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Home Affairs and Public Safety, and of
Parliamentary Affairs of the
Kingdom of Lesotho**
Honourable Lesao Archibald Lehohla MP

at the

**100th Session of the Council of the
International Organisation for Migration**

**05th to 07th December, 2011
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me to convey very warm fraternal greetings from the Kingdom of Lesotho. Permit me also to associate myself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Zambia on behalf of the African Group.

The Kingdom of Lesotho sincerely congratulates the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on this landmark occasion of her 60th Anniversary. There is good reason to celebrate this milestone given the impressive track record of IOM over those 60 years of operations. IOM kept within her mandate and delivered. Even in these days of results based management hardly anyone can deny the effectiveness of IOM whether we look at the inputs, process, outputs, outcomes or impact. There have been tangible deliverables even in the face of forbidding circumstances.

Over a period of sixty years, some turbulence is to be expected every-now-and-then. Cycles in the degree of success is to be expected and can be taken as normal. This is the right moment, then, to congratulate those who are, and have been, at the helm of this organization that delivers. They are all commended for a job well done. Lesotho delegation urges the team at the helm now to at least maintain, and preferably accelerate, the momentum of IOM given the enormous challenges facing humanity on the migration front. They are also urged to seize opportunities that lend themselves to address ongoing, current, and emerging pertinent situations. There is so much that needs to be done, yet such limited capacity, resources, and time, to tackle the challenges looming in the horizon.

Mr. Chairman,
As I will indicate later on, never before has the world needed the services of IOM as much as it does now, given the recent, current and emerging developments. It is timely to consolidate the work of IOM globally according to need. Demand driven and needs based delivery of services is the advisable approach.

Mr. Chairman,
Collaboration with other sister international organisations is of utmost importance given the increasingly cross cutting nature of issues at hand. Complementarity among relevant international organizations has been deliberately designed by the international community to ensure highly valued synergies and symbiosis.

There is the challenge of IOM having to play its part in implementing relevant parts of the Least Developed Countries' (LDCs') Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA). Equally IOM is expected to collaborate in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (APOA) for the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). The same goes in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Preparations for UNCTAD XIII, Rio +20 and successor to the Almaty Programme of Action are gathering momentum and are beckoning inputs. Somewhere down the line there may well be the conclusion of the World Trade and Organisation's Doha Development Agenda of trade negotiations (DDA) including Mode IV of trade in services among other facets. This aspect would than fall squarely on the lap of IOM. Clearly interfacing smoothly and fruitfully with other international organizations is imperative.

Mr. Chairman,
While push and pull factors such as demographic dynamics, armed conflicts, natural and man-made disasters, shifts of economic activity centres of gravity, and increasingly climate change, are among the causes of human movement regionally and internationally, then tremendous improvements in transport, communication and information flow facilitate it.

Recent global multiple crises have prompted more human movement. Financial Crisis that quickly transformed into economic crisis and then spilled over into the social, as well as political crises, in some instances, fuelled migration. That has been exacerbated by the food crisis and energy crisis particularly for the net food importing developing countries and the net energy importing developing countries. More lately as indicated earlier, climate change has become another push factor both internally and across the borders.

The populations of developing countries are now dominated in numbers by relatively more educated yet jobless youth. Jobless youth world-wide are a ticking time-bomb needless to point out. That situation needs to be addressed urgently. The youth tend to be energetic, imaginative, enterprising but also open to a variety of ideas, including agitation, and also tend to be relatively more mobile. It is another factor spurring migration. The world population, according to demographers, has just reached the seven billion mark. The population pressure of that magnitude can only mean more human movement and so ever growing challenges to IOM. IOM should be ready to assist member states to cope.

Mr. Chairman,
On the home front, Lesotho has reached 90 per cent literacy rate. There has been free primary education since 2000. Since 2010 primary education has become compulsory, basic education being viewed as a

human right. Enrollment and literacy rate are fairly balanced in terms of gender. The World Economic Forum ranked Lesotho 9th in the world in closing the gender gap. In this regard Lesotho has out-performed many developed countries. The credibility of the thesis that investing more in women empowerment brings about higher development returns to the nation is thus under test in Lesotho. That is to say that there is a believe that there exists higher elasticity of development pace in response to women empowerment. The point has been emphasized in the just released World Development Report 2012 of the World Bank which has the theme: "Gender Equality and Development".

Lesotho being an LDC with meager resources has had a long history of trade in services exports. Migrant labour and remittances has been a highly pertinent and very significant issue in Lesotho. Over time the composition of the migrants has been evolving, given the dynamics in Lesotho as well as in the sub-region. There has been a move from unskilled to increasing tilt towards relatively more skilled migrants. This phenomenon continues to warrant meticulous attention in the form of monitoring and evaluation. Evidence else-where has shown that remittances, if well managed, can become a new and viable source of financing development.

Lesotho has joined most developing countries with trends of movement from the rural to the urban areas. This is due to hardships in the rural areas and perceived promise of better livelihood in urban areas. Efforts are afoot to improve infrastructure in the rural areas. That includes roads, land reclamation and forestry, more schools, clinics, accelerated electrification etc. Labour intensive methods are being used in the process as an attempt to create jobs in the rural areas. All these being done with the objective of halting, and hopefully reversing, the trends in rural-to-urban migration.

Mr. Chairman,

Lesotho is no exception to the pressing phenomenon of rapidly growing numbers of jobless youth that form an increasingly large part of the population. There are numerous programmes trying to address this challenge. They are by no means adequate given the enormity of the challenge.

This is admittedly one of those areas where assistance of the international community in various forms articulated by the authorities would be most highly appreciated.

Closely related to the above, Lesotho is in the company of those developing and transition economies facing a serious problem of human trafficking. The authorities are determined to join other countries in containing and reversing this disturbing phenomenon of global dimensions. This requires meaningful international collaboration. No one country, especially small and low income ones, can tackle this problem in isolation. It requires resolute regional and international co-operation and assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

Lesotho is content with the hard and focused work that the Director General and his team have been, and are, doing around the world in assisting the member states to address challenges posed and seizing opportunities that lend themselves in the realm of migration. This is being achieved even in the face of tightening budget.

The highly comprehensive and informative Report of the Director General is noted with gratification. It is hoped that resources will be availed to IOM to enable her to deal effectively with the challenges and opportunities at hand and those that are looming in the horizon.

Lesotho remains committed to play its part constructively within its means.

Again congratulations for the work well-done and thank you for your kind attention.

KHOTSOI PULAI NALAI