

**REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**



**PERMANENT MISSION OF RWANDA  
GENEVA**

**100<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF RWANDA**

**GENEVA, 5-7/12/2011**

**Mr. Chairperson,  
The Director General of the IOM, His Excellency Ambassador William SWING  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the Government of Rwanda, allow me to convey our congratulations, Mr. Chairperson, upon your election to chair this historical 100<sup>th</sup> session of the IOM Council, and to express the sincere gratitude of the delegation of Rwanda for the wisdom with which you are conducting the work of this session. The Rwanda delegation assures you and all the Bureau members of its full support.

The Delegation of Rwanda welcomes the newly admitted members of the IOM and is convinced that the new members will surely participate to achieve the main mission of the International Organization for Migration. We also extend our congratulations to the various organizations to which observer status has been granted.

The Delegation of Rwanda fully supports the statement made by Zambia on behalf of the African Group.

We also welcome the IOM Director-General's report that precisely articulates IOM's journey for the last 60 years. We commend IOM's holistic approach on the issues of migrants and migrations and to focus on results, efficiency, robust accountability and effective communication.

As we commemorate 60 years of IOM anniversary, it is important that we reflect the complex and multi-faceted issue of migration and commit ourselves to enhance partnerships at all levels while accelerating pro-active solutions to overcome challenges and seize opportunities.

In this context, ownership and commitment of all member states are critical to sustain the cause and ensure human and orderly migration. We believe that the issues of gender and climate change should be mainstreamed into migration policies, legislations and strategies.

**Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Government of Rwanda is committed to the promotion of policies and legislations that ensure respect and dignity for all, including migrants. This includes among others, dual

citizenship, Diaspora engagement, employment creation, poverty reduction and removing barriers for those who want to live and work in Rwanda.

The Government of Rwanda believes that the Rwandan Diaspora, as part of the country's population is a considerable potential that contributes effectively to the political and socio-economic development of Rwanda.

In this context a Department in charge of Rwandan Diaspora was created in 2008 within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. This newly created Diaspora Department has as primary mission of coordinating the implementation of the Rwandan Diaspora Policy through mobilization of the Rwandan Diaspora for unity and cohesion in order to better contribute to the development not only of their host countries but also of Rwanda, as their country of origin.

To illustrate the impact of the implementation of the Rwandan national policy for the Diaspora, it is imperative to note that the formal remittance flows from members of the Rwandan Diaspora stands at close 10% of national budget; and it is expected to rise sharply in the near future.

***Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Rwanda appreciates the existing cooperation with IOM in various areas including skill transfers of Rwandan professionals living abroad and the reintegration of the returnees and vulnerable sections of population.

As I conclude, I wish to reaffirm Rwanda's commitment to continue working closely with IOM and all its member States to pursue the mandate of the IOM for the interests of migrants and migration.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**