



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**STATEMENT BY MS. FLORENCE HABASUNE
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MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 100TH COUNCIL OF THE IOM.**

Geneva, 7th DECEMBER 2011.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The Zambian delegation congratulates you and your bureau on your election. We thank the Director General and his staff for his report and his remarks on the state of migration.

My delegation is pleased to be part of this historic 100th Session of the Council of IOM which coincides with the 60th Anniversary of the organization. Indeed it is historic to be here to celebrate 60 years of IOM's existence, a life which has been characterized by an ever growing involvement of the organization in the management of migration in cooperation with states. This is important, as proper management of migration can only lead to better well being of migrants and their host communities.

We welcome the fourteen new member states and the five observer organizations to the IOM Council and look forward to their full participation. We are particularly pleased to welcome COMESA whose headquarters is based in Lusaka and the fact that IOM Zambia is the IOM's focal point to COMESA. As member states of both organizations we look forward to increased benefits from this cooperation.

Zambia became a member of the IOM in 1990 and has since enjoyed support and good cooperation with the organization in various areas which include: Voluntary repatriation for refugees to the DRC, Angola, Great Lakes Region and overseas resettlement on one hand, counter human trafficking activities, capacity building and migration health on the other.

Zambia has greatly benefited from IOM's involvement in finding durable solutions for refugees in the form of voluntary repatriation and resettlement to third countries. Presently a joint appeal by IOM and the UNHCR launched here in Geneva in July 2011 is still outstanding to assist some 9,000 Angolan refugees who voluntarily wish to return to Angola. Unfortunately, the appeal has not received much support and we take this opportunity to call upon donors to provide the required funds to enable IOM and UNHCR move the Angolan refugees back to their country of origin. This has become even more urgent now that the refugee status of Angolan refugees is to cease by the end of this year.

Zambia and the IOM have also closely worked together in the area of counter trafficking leading to the passage of the country's anti-human trafficking legislation in 2008. Currently IOM is working with other UN agencies such as the ILO and UNICEF through the UN joint programme on Human Trafficking to operationalize the provisions of the legislation. We look forward to continued support in this area.

Over the years the IOM has supported Zambia in the areas of Border Management and Control and the establishment of a diaspora liaison office within the Government administrative structures to deal with various issues of Zambians in the diaspora with the view of fostering their greater participation in national development. We are grateful to the IOM for this assistance in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, we mention all these areas of cooperation as evidence of the work the IOM has been doing even in areas which have long seemed to be trouble spots, as evidence of the IOM's universal nature. We know that under the leadership of Ambassador William Swing with his staff, the IOM will continue to pay attention to the needs of all states, members and non-members alike. In order to assist the administration carry out their work effectively, we encourage member states with arrears in their assessed contributions to make efforts in meeting their obligations or get onto a Payment Plan, like Zambia has done. In this regard, we commend the DG for all his efforts in engaging member states concerned.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.