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KENYA

STATEMENT

by

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MINISTRY OF IMMIGRATION &  
REGISTRATION OF PERSONS

at the  
90<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election for the next calendar year.

My Government is confident that these proceedings will be chaired with optimal efficiency and professionalism during your tenure.

Please be assured, Your Excellency, of my delegation's support in your new task of spearheading IOM deliberations.

May I also express appreciation to your predecessor for the excellent manner in which he guided our work.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Kenya welcomes the continued expansion of IOM. That Mr. Chairman is an affirmation of the role the organisation has continued to play as well as its importance.

In that connection, we welcome Ghana, Cameroon, Belarus and Togo to the membership of IOM and the Islamic Relief as an observer.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As Mr. Brunson McKinley – Director General of IOM aptly put it “certain realities about our modern society in which migrants play a key role call for coherent migration policies at all levels of governance. This need has now been identified as a priority by IOM member states.”

**Mr. Chairman,**

Migration dynamics are finding expression in virtually all spheres of the world's socio-economic formation.

These dynamics in themselves and in their realities have costs and benefits. Costs have to be minimised and benefits maximized. The minimization of migration related costs and maximization of related benefits will continue to be a major challenge for the future.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In recognition of the advantages of a coherent regional policy on migration, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are in the process of harmonizing policy and legislation within the framework of the East African Community Protocol on movement of persons. IOM sponsored a regional meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2005 on Review of Migration Laws within the East African Community.

Cognitive of the fact that net remittances to Kenya is a big source of foreign exchange, the Central Bank of Kenya recently established a special mutual fund to assist and facilitate remittances from Kenyans abroad.

A multi Sectoral committee on remittances has also been established to address effective or efficiency methods of tapping Diaspora remittances.

Under the (1035) facility, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are implementing capacity building on Labour Migration Management and related MIDA matters. This integrated project has expanded the capacity of the three East African countries to provide protection to their citizens working abroad; expand legal labour migration opportunities for the benefits and development of their countries of origin.

The ongoing project is assisting the governments in strengthening their institutional capacities to manage and realize their development goals through the transfer of relevant skills, financial and other resources of East Africans in the diaspora.

These are by no means the only initiatives undertaken by the Kenyan Government to coordinate and manage migration issues. Kenya has constantly factored migration issues in policy planning and in February 2005 established a full ministry responsible for migration issues; previously this was a department under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Issues such as demography, social integration, supply and demand for international workers and professionals, social integration and cultural identity will continue posing a great challenge for the future.

Efficient and effective management of migration requires coordination and coherence from National, Regional and International levels.

There is need to formulate common policy guidelines by member states at a fora such as this one which could be replicated and easily domesticated at national levels to ensure standardization.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Kenya takes this opportunity to thank the IOM, for the successful implementation of the capacity building for East African Governments on Labour Migration Management and related MIDA matters projects which is nearing its completion in April 2006. This project has harmonized the coherence of capacity building on labour migration management and related matters in the three East African countries. This has been the first and only such project in Africa.

Kenya wishes to request for the extension of this project to a second phase especially to address programmes geared towards issuance of secure travel documents for the migrants. IOM through its department of technical cooperation or through donors could explore avenues of assisting Kenya in this area. I thank you all for your attention.