



KENYA

STATEMENT BY

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OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS*

**AT THE 92nd SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION COUNCIL**

GENEVA

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Madam Chairperson
The Director General of IOM - Mr Brunson Mckinley
Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

Please allow me to begin by congratulating the Chairperson and the other members of the Bureau for their election and to wish them success in carrying out the important tasks before them. I also wish to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the members of the outgoing Bureau for their contribution to the work of the organisation.

My delegation further wishes to congratulate Nepal and the Republic of Montenegro on their admission to the Organisation.

The Kenya delegation aligns itself fully with the statement made by Morocco on behalf of the African Group. We would, however, like to highlight some pertinent issues.

Kenya commends the IOM for convening this important Council and in particular for the choice of items on the agenda which have focused on partnership with a number of organisations with diverse mandates but whose work is closely interwoven with issues relating to migration.

We laud the proposals for engagement with governments, business community, civil society, the media and financial institutions. It is our conviction that a multidisciplinary approach is essential in comprehensively tackling migration challenges.

We would like to propose that regional consultative processes should adopt this approach and that where they do not exist, they should be initiated. In this regard, we appeal for support from the donor community to enable the East African Region to initiate and implement a regional dialogue on migration.

Chairperson,

It has become increasingly obvious that effective management of migration requires partnerships and engagement of international and regional organisations, a number of which have participated in this conference.

We welcome the establishment of the Global Migration Group. It is our expectation that the Group will effectively co-ordinate various efforts, provide focused direction and eliminate duplication of efforts thereby realising maximum synergies of co-ordination. We look forward to practical and valuable experimental projects which will assist member countries embark on tangible programmes.

In this regard, we welcome the briefing by the Director-General on IOM-UN Relationship. We are of the view that while these consultations continue, the matter should eventually be decided upon by member states by consensus. We however, wish to emphasise the underlying principle that the organisation should not lose its operational independence and flexibility and should maintain its lead role on migration issues.

The presentations, interactive discussions and information sharing on some of the best practices presented at this conference have been quite enriching and are appreciated by our delegation.

Madam Chairperson,

Kenya has had a long history of relationship with IOM and was among the first African countries to join the organisation. We are proud of the role played by the IOM Regional Office in Nairobi especially with regard to the on going project on Migration of Health Workers and Health of Migrants. We appreciate the importance IOM attaches to the issue of overseas employment and look forward to working with them on the area of capacity building in this regard, considering that Kenya is a major source of highly skilled migrant workers.

We note with appreciation the role of IOM in offering invaluable services at the Daadab and Kakuma Refugee Camps which host thousands of refugees. Currently, the horn of Africa region is experiencing serious flooding which has exacerbated the humanitarian situation caused by drought and conflict. The population in refugee camps has been adversely affected by the floods and this situation is expected to continue into early next year.

We are of the view that IOM could play a more active role together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other UN Agencies in relief operations in the region.

Kenya looks forward to continued operational assistance especially at this time when the refugee camps are completely submerged in floods.

Our delegation calls upon IOM to continue with its work in providing advisory services to Governments, agencies and others involved in the development and implementation of migration policies as well as capacity building so that migration can be beneficial to migrants as well as to sending and host countries. We would like to see actualisation and implementation of these programmes in Kenya.

Chairperson,

We welcome the launch of the Counter Trafficking Modules which should offer guidance on counter measures to protect migrant labour and to bring to an end their exploitation. We look forward to working closely with the regional office in this regard.

We appreciate research findings into migration issues, data collection and dialogue on migration and the advancement of opportunities from migration while addressing the challenges therein.

The challenge of resource constraints and resource mobilisation from both the multilateral and bilateral sources must be given equal attention.

Finally, Madam Chairperson, we look forward to a fruitful Global forum in 2007 in Belgium.

THANK YOU