

ETHIOPIA

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Ethiopia would like to congratulate the Chairman, the Vice-Chairpersons and the Rapporteur on their election during the 101st Session of the Council. We are confident that under your able leadership, the Council will successfully undertake its important tasks incorporated in the Agenda. We would also like to thank the IOM, and especially its Director-General, Mr. William Lacy Swing and his team for transforming the organisation into what it is today. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for preparing the necessary documents for this Council which we have received well in advance. The Delegation of Ethiopia welcomes the Report of the Director-General. It traces, the progress made over the years, its current state of affairs, and its outlook. We would like to thank him for his vision and the accessible and informative report. My delegation endorses the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Ethiopia attaches immense importance to the nexus between development and migration. For us, the intimate relationship between migration and development is not rhetoric but a reality. The Government of Ethiopia has designed national policies and programmes to maximize and effectively harness the positive contributions of migration to development. Multi sectoral departments dedicated to Diaspora engagement are established both at the federal and local levels, that assist Ethiopian nationals and of Ethiopian origin living abroad to enable them participate in the development endeavours of

their country of origin. These national efforts have continued to result in visible benefits. This however, does not mean that we do not face challenges in harnessing and maximizing the potentials of migration. On the contrary, there are problems which require partnership and coordinated actions at various levels and many fronts. Our institutions suffer from lack of capacity and resources.

Mr. Chairman,

The challenges of increasing migration continued to exert pressure on my country. Ethiopia maintains an open door policy towards people seeking assistance and refugees. It remains committed to their policy and closely collaborates with the relevant agencies in providing assistance to those in need and in the effort to find durable solutions. The challenges from migration are either of border control or the management of irregular migration or the protection of those who find themselves in difficult situations. Border control issues require further cooperation with different countries and capacity building measures to local authorities. The management of irregular migration requires national measures to be supported by regional and international solutions.

Ethiopia holds IOM with the highest esteem. IOM is indeed an institution which has proved its relevance to countries across the spectrum. The policies and programmes it implements are quite complementary to our developmental needs. It is further committed to seeking effective solutions to

global migration challenges and continue to cooperate with IOM to strengthen its domestic migration management system in order to meet the complex migration challenges facing the world.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to end by expressing deserved recognition of, and our deepest gratitude for, the support which the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has extended to Ethiopia at all times, both in achieving our priority objective of giving support and attention to our migrants, and in the construction of a more tolerant world and with better understanding between the countries of origin, transit and destination around the world, ensuring respect of the human dignity and well being of migrants. Ethiopia will continue to support IOM in its future endeavours.

I thank you.