

GHANA

STATEMENT FOR THE GENERAL DEBATE AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL, 27TH TO 30TH NOVEMBER, 2012

Chairperson,

Ghana associates itself with the statement by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Algeria on behalf of the Africa Group, and joins previous Speakers in congratulating you and the members of the Bureau on your election. We also congratulate Ambassador Strohal of Austria for ably steering our activities over the past year, and particularly, for the important work carried out in the Working Group on Budget Reform.

My delegation thanks the Director-General, Ambassador Lacy Swing for his comprehensive report which articulates strongly key milestones achieved, as well as the challenges being faced by the IOM. We appreciate his leadership of this organization in the past four years, under which we have witnessed the successful execution of the organization's mandate even within the constraints of the 'zero nominal growth' approach to the budget. We welcome the progress made in the ongoing reforms relating to the structure of the organization, human resource and the budget. We are hopeful that the continued commitment to see the reforms through will bring about the desired goal of further strengthening and positioning of IOM for future challenges in the area of migration management.

Mr. Chairman,

Ghana acknowledges the invaluable work of the Working Group on Budget Reform since its establishment in May 2010. The Working Group's recommendations adopted by the Council in previous Council sessions, have contributed to improving IOM's difficult budgetary situation. As intimated in the DG's report, much remains to be done, in particular, with regard to the core budget which continues to be overstretched in the face of growing needs and challenges. The continued financial support of IOM's donors ^{is} appreciated. We ^{welcome} ~~applaud~~ the efforts to explore alternative funding sources and endorse the need to establish criteria for private sector involvement. We further welcome the commissioning of a private sector fundraising feasibility study and look forward

to its completion. We believe that the recommendations arising therefrom will help in improving further the financial situation.

Mr. Chairman,

In the course of the year, Ghana together with other member-states participated and benefitted from the exchange of views at the two workshops held within the context of the International Dialogue on Migration. The outcomes of the workshops have been insightful and contribute to efforts to strengthen the capacity of government to implement appropriate migration policies. Migration is now an important factor in the policy development of many governments and IOM's needs to continue to assist governments in this endeavour.

As the principal international organization on migration and with years of expertise, IOM, has been instrumental in shaping the global discourse on migration and development. Ghana therefore supports the view that IOM should play a leading role in the High Level Dialogue in 2013, and in cooperation with member states, ensure that migration is included as a cross-cutting issue in the UN's development agenda beyond 2015.

Given the changing dynamics and complexity of contemporary crises, we are encouraged by IOM's efforts to strengthen its role as the leading global organization for migration management and enhance its response capacity. In that regard, we welcome the adoption of IOM's Migration Operational Crisis Framework, which we believe will enhance IOM's operational effectiveness and readiness in dealing with all the phases of complex crises, and offer the necessary support to governments in meeting the needs of all categories of migrants.

Mr. Chairman,

Ghana is appreciative of IOM's support to our national development through the assisted return and re-integration of skilled nationals. In this context, we welcome the increasing recognition of the link between migration and development. It is against this background that Ghana has continued to participate in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and appreciates the depth of discussions at the GFMD. Under the chairmanship of the government of Mauritius, this year's GFMD activities under the overarching theme of 'enhancing the human development of migrants and their contribution

to the development of communities and states’, culminating in the Summit held in Mauritius a week ago,’ underscores the significant contributions of migrant workers to a country’s socio-economic development.

One of the round table discussions at the Summit which Ghana co-chaired, on the sub-theme ‘Addressing South-South migration and development policies’ brought to the fore the increasing incidence of South-south migration patterns, and the need for governments to harness potential of South-South labour mobility. Being a country of origin and destination, with a great number of its citizens in the diaspora, not only in the developed world, the government of Ghana placed great importance to the discussions at the Summit, and will continue to engage with member states and the IOM in ensuring the continued contribution of our diasporans and other migrants in Ghana to the country’s socio-economic development.

Mr. Chairman,

Ghana also appreciates its collaboration with the IOM in the development of a national Migration Policy, which is intended to guide the mainstreaming of migration issues into government’s development framework at all levels of national endeavor. The draft policy among other things, recommends establishment of a Trust Fund for migration, and the creation of a National Commission on Migration which may be transformed eventually into a Ministry of Migration or the re-designation of an existing Ministry, to focus on, and facilitate the effective implementation of the migration policy. We look forward to continued engagement with IOM as we make efforts to address the many-faceted realities of international migration in today’s globalized world.

Finally Chairperson, my delegation warmly welcomes the St. Vincent and Grenadines and the Republic of Myanmar as members of IOM, as well as the World Food Programme (WFP), and the two NGOs as Observers. We believe that the increasing membership attests to the important work IOM is doing, and urge continued support of member states and all Partners for this important organization.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.