

**STATEMENT OF NIGERIA AT THE 101<sup>ST</sup> COUNCIL OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND 27-30 NOVEMBER 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

Director-General

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Nigeria associates itself with the position of the African Group and wishes to make these additional comments.

2. Let me start by congratulating the Chairman and the entire members of the Bureau for their election. We thank the Secretariat for their continued support to this organization and in particular, for making available, the various meeting's documents. Let me also thank the Director -General for his report on the activities of our organization and for his achievements since his assumption of office as the Director General of IOM. We thank Ambassador Strohal for his contribution to the success of IOM in the past one year.

Mr Chairman

3. We note with admiration that from less than fifty countries, at inception, IOM has grown to more than 146 countries in 2012 with several branch offices all over the world. Such growth, no doubt is an indication and a clear evidence of the relevance and acceptance of the IOM as a credible organization in tackling the challenges of migration worldwide. We use this opportunity to congratulate and welcome the new Member States and assure them of Nigeria's readiness to work and collaborate with them.

Mr. Chairman

4. Nigeria is deeply involved in the issue of migration because we see human mobility as inevitable and migration as an important tool of development. As a country of origin, transit and destination, the Nigerian Government has concluded plans to implement a national policy on migration which will feature and address a number of social issues such as national security, regular and irregular migration and the promotion and protection of rights of migrants. At full implementation, the policy will not only ensure an

effective labour migration but also will lead to a responsive system consistent with our national development plan, gender sensitivity in accordance with ethics and international norms and best practices.

5. Currently, the Nigerian economy is undergoing transformations that will position private sector to take ownership of the capital, financial and entrepreneur services in order to stimulate growth in the productive sector. This ambitious plan would absorb huge resources and leverage on the opportunities offered by migration to achieve intended success. Consequently, the Nigerian government plans to motivate Nigerian nationals in the diaspora to play crucial roles as partners, entrepreneurs and investors in the national development projects. Nigeria is ready to partner and collaborate with IOM in our effort to secure the dignity of migrants in the diaspora, as, historically, these constitutes the most victims of discrimination and xenophobia.

Mr. Chairman

6. Building the capacity of migrants is an important element in finding lasting solution to migration crisis. It is an essential element necessary to transfer expertise and to build countries response to cope with the situation of repatriation before, during and after crisis. In this regard, the establishment of the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism and the recent adoption of IOM Migration Crisis Framework are positive steps. While Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism would enable IOM to swiftly address disasters and consolidate actions during crises, Operational Framework would enhance the promotion and protection of migrants' rights even after evacuation and crises. We thank the IOM for these innovations and encourage Member States to rally round the Secretariat to provide durable and sustainable solution to migrants in crises situation. We also thank IOM for its actions to support Member States to fulfill their obligations to protect and assist migrants in crisis situation.

7. We commend IOM for its various efforts to improve service delivery through cooperation and collaboration with other stakeholders. We note in particular IOM efforts to strengthen its operation through series of reforms and conclusion of agreements and memorandum of understanding with other stakeholders. We welcome also IOM plan to explore alternative funding sources beyond Member States contributions. We encourage private funding activities that do not stymie the capacity of the organization to perform its core functions. Private contributions should guarantee flexibility to address IOM major priorities. We welcome increased funding and donations to the IOM's

Development Fund in order to increase access to the programme and benefit to all eligible members

8. The evacuation of thousands of African nationals cut in crises during the peak of the Libyan crisis by IOM is commendable. We are enthused by the implementation of several projects to reduce human trafficking in several countries and acknowledge the launching of a new five year strategic plan aimed at strengthening IOM's response to migrants need and the improvement of the organization's ability to prevent abuse and exploitation of migrants. We endorsed IOM's plan to continue to collaborate with other organizations such as UNCHR, UNICEF and the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights in order to improve protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and further address challenges of unaccompanied children.

I thank you.