



## **STATEMENT**

by

**Honourable Joang MOLAPO  
Minister of Home Affairs of  
the Kingdom of Lesotho**

at the

**103rd Session of the Council of the  
International Organization for Migration**

**26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2013  
Palais des Nations**

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Your Excellencies Ministers present here today,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the very outset, my delegation extends greetings from the Kingdom of Lesotho to this august 103<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of the International Organisation for Migration. We also fully align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group by **Ethiopia/Angola**

This Session comes amidst the global warming and other socio-political challenges of recent times. Challenges that undoubtedly have a direct impact on migration patterns within our societies. Notwithstanding, my delegation is confident that with the expertise and knowledge that IOM possesses, we will together triumph in addressing these challenges. There, it would only be prudent for all of us to tackle migration situations in the humanitarian spirit of collaborative efforts and burden sharing in order to positivity turn migration challenges into opportunities that will benefit humanity.

This Session follows the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development which highlighted a number of initiatives of which we encourage steady fast pace in transforming the outcomes into reality. As we prepare for the Post 2015, Sustainable Development Goals, it is critical to integrate migration as a key component to development in Developing Countries especially the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Allow me to delve into our national situation where migration plays a critical component of the economy. Recent studies indicate that 30% of Lesotho's GDP is made up of remittances. In fact, according to the World Bank Lesotho is the third largest receiver of remittances in the world surpassing revenue from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and foreign direct investment combined. Therefore, the sheer extent of migrants' capacities in financial terms calls for the introduction of policies and action plans on how the migrants can be targeted specifically as a development actor.

I therefore, call upon this forum that we focus on the continuing exchange of best practices, which are conducive to the migrant's engagement.

At this juncture, I would like to highlight several milestones that Lesotho has reached with the assistance of development partners like Intra-ACP Migration Facility in developing policies on migration. These include the following:

- Lesotho Migration and Development Policy
- Implementation Framework for Sequenced Short Term Returns of Basotho Health Professionals in the Diaspora
- The National Remittances Framework of Action For Lesotho
- The Lesotho National Consultative Committee Strategic Plan (2013-15)

These documents are a result of hard work and research done with the assistance from ACP with the funding from EU. Current initiatives with assistance from the Intra-ACP Migration facility include the following:

- A framework for Managing Migration Data
- A framework for negotiating Bi-lateral agreements
- Lesotho Curriculum on Migration and Development
- Laying Ground Work for Engaging Lesotho National in the Diaspora for national Development
- Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Plans
- Baseline Study on the Options of Reintegration Programmes for Returning Migrant Workers

Furthermore, plans are underway to establish a department in the Ministry of Home Affairs of establishing a fully fledged Migration and Development Department which will be dedicated to dealing with all migration issues in Lesotho.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have outlined the positive milestones for Lesotho but we still continue to be faced with migration challenges. Even though, Lesotho as a developing country, land-locked and with minimal natural resources, we still experience migration flows. Some of the contributors to migration flows include a multiplicity of socio-economic challenges such as reduced employment opportunities, particular youth unemployment; increasing

poverty levels; food insecurity; and unfavourable climatic conditions, to mention but a few.

Likewise with migratory flows experienced throughout the world, migration trends in Lesotho are also complex in nature ranging from movements of Lesotho nationals, for various reasons. These include, migrating either to countries in the region or other parts of the world, as well as within the country from rural to urban areas.

Lesotho is also host to migrants from various parts of the world. In recent times, Mr Chairperson, this migration pattern carries has raised serious concern for Lesotho, as it includes the trafficking of persons, even though Lesotho is not the country of destination.

It is against the above conditions that Lesotho is eager to see concentrated efforts towards maximizing the development benefits of migration and minimizing the negative impact of migration by all Member States of IOM. These we believe will go a long way in enabling development in countries of origin and destination of migrants. More significantly, the instrumentality of IOM in the management of migration will not only enhance national capacities, but regional and international efforts. We thus look forward to IOM's renewed engagement with small, developing and land-locked countries in the future particularly in Africa.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Before closing, I wish to also welcome the new Members and Observers to the family of IOM and can count on the support of Lesotho.

In concluding, it will be remiss of my delegation not to extend our appreciation to the achievements of the Organisation during the stewardship of His Excellency Ambassador Swing. These were realized in the face of immense financial and economic challenges, as well as natural disasters testing on IOM during Ambassador Swing's tenure of office to date. Lesotho, therefore, encourages IOM to maintain course on this path and is confident of the ability of the Director General to steer the ship on course. I wish to assure you of the support of my delegation in this regard.

**I thank you for your attention  
Khotso Pula Nala.**