



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**Statement by Mr. Elias Zimba
Minister Plenipotentiary**

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

Geneva, 26-29 March 2013

Mr. President

Mr. Director General

Excellences

Distinguished participants

Allow me at outset to express my congratulations to you, Mr. President, upon your election to preside over the deliberations of the 103rd Session of the Council of the International Organization on Migration (IOM).

I wish to take this opportunity to commend Ambassador William Swing, the Director-General of the IOM and his talented team for the remarkable achievement the IOM has managed to register, particularly in the domain of migrants' protection.

I also wish to extend Mozambique congratulations to the newly elected members and observers of the IOM.

Mr. President,

Mozambique aligns herself with the statement made by Angola on behalf of African Group.

Mozambique takes note with appreciation the Director General's report on the activities of the IOM in 2012.

We found to be of particular interest the efforts aimed at strengthening international partnerships, research on migration and, those related to international law of migration. We wish to register our encouragement to IOM to continue in this path.

My country is pleased to see the fruitful involvement of IOM in partnership arrangements to assist migrants, particularly in the context of the emerging south-south migration.

In this framework, the Ministers of Labor and Home Affairs of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) held a meeting with IOM in Maputo where issues on how to improve labor migration, migration management, challenges of

intra-regional and international migration, were discussed.

We are cognizant of the role of IOM as the leading agency for the Global Cluster for displacement induced by natural disasters. We therefore, express our appreciation to the assistance provided by IOM to Mozambique during the recent floods.

Mozambique recognizes challenges linked to the increasing mobility of persons. On this matter, we believe that the IOM assistance to development of local, regional and international migration policies are of utmost importance.

In this connection, Mozambique ratified recently the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

In addition, my Government and IOM signed a Memorandum of Understanding this year, in Maputo on the management of the situation of migrants.

These steps display an unequivocal sense of commitment by Mozambique to the well-being and protection of migrants.

Mozambique welcomes the entry into force of the amendments to the Constitution aimed at improving the functioning of the Organization.

Mozambique as part of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries praises the existing cooperation between the CPLP members States and the IOM.

Mozambique reiterates its support to the position of the African Group on the resolution about the Funding of the core structure: Budget-strengthening model.

Let me seize this occasion to praise H.E. Ambassador Bertrand C., of Belgium for the important role he played as he brilliantly led the negotiations on Budget-strengthening model.

We believe that the increases in the slopes of the budget contributions by the Member States, as well as in administrative management costs of technical

assistance projects are vital, especially at the time when it is perceived that migration aspects are becoming increasingly dramatic.

Before I conclude, I would like to reaffirm Mozambique support to the inclusion of migration and development perspectives in the discussions on post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

We believe that more than ever, migration and development issues are progressively becoming intertwined and they should deserve the right consideration in the international development agenda, particularly for their potential role for sustainable development.

I thank you!