

NIGERIA'S STATEMENT TO 103rd COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON MIGRATION

26-29 NOVEMBER, 2013

Chairperson

Director General

Distinguished Delegates

The Nigerian delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Angola on behalf of the African Group and wishes to congratulate you Mr. Chairman for your election. We also thank the Director General and the Deputy Director General for the excellent manner the IOM Administration has continued to manage its activities.

Nigeria is committed to supporting the IOM to carry-out its mandate to advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the human rights and well being of all migrants. It is on this note that we are pleased to welcome the new membership of Turkmenistan, Iceland, Fiji and Marshal Island to the organization as well as the new Observers to IOM.

The increase in the membership of IOM to 155 countries now, approaching universal status, within a short period of time is a clear testimony of the relevance of Organization in fostering understanding, cooperation and development among different countries in the area of migration. It is also a clear evidence of the confidence that the world community reposed on the administration to advance the course of

migrants. We support IOM current reforms including the budget reform and review of IOM structures, which aim at strengthening the administration's capacity to deliver its mandates.

Chairperson, the Lampedusa tragedy last October in which about 300 people lost their lives is still fresh in our mind. Anti-migrant sentiments remain high and constitute a big challenge for the member countries of IOM and the international community in general despite the well-known fact that human mobility is inevitable. It is in this connection that Nigeria endorses the IOM's engagement with some member countries and other stake holders on migration aimed at addressing the complex migration flows, especially along the Mediterranean route. Through this engagement, we believe that the unnecessary loss of lives as in Lampedusa will be curtailed if not totally avoided, and the rights of migrants respected.

Nigeria applauds the commitment of IOM, especially at the last October 2nd UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, in ensuring that migration is included in the post- 2015 UN development agenda. We support the call for Governments to display a consensual view on the opportunities of migration for development with clear emphasis on the rights of migrants. We also welcome the call to strengthen partnerships and cooperation on international migration, development mechanism to effectively integrate migration into development policies and promoting coherence at all levels.

To conclude the Chairperson, Nigerian delegation would want to encourage the IOM to continue to work towards having a more balanced

workforce that represents different shades of the Organization's membership as this will engender inclusiveness and a sense of belonging among the member states.

I thank you