

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA AT THE 105TH COUNCIL
SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION HELD IN
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, FROM 25 TO 28 NOVEMBER, 2014**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity, given me, to deliver this statement on behalf of the delegation of Ghana. Indeed I must also congratulate you on your election as Chair and commend you for the able manner you have conducted the affairs of the Council so far. We also commend your Bureau and the entire staff of the IOM for their dedication.

We are very thankful to the Director General and his team for their good work in making the IOM more visible and relevant in global affairs. Most encouraging is the continued relentless efforts to reform the organization to better target the wellbeing of the migrant. Ghana welcomes the progressive report on the implementation of the reforms within the IOM and supports the Migration Governance Framework that has been developed by the IOM as a blueprint for the efficient and effective management of migration by all stakeholders. Ghana remains committed to the promotion of all human rights including the rights of migrants. The recent review of the Initial Report of Ghana by the United Nations Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families has reinforced Ghana's resolve to promote and protect the rights of all migrants. We subscribe to the view that the rights of migrants and the link between migration and development should be mainstreamed in the ongoing negotiations on the post-2015 Agenda.

While commending the successes of IOM and the reform programme in particular, we also wish to highlight the need for the IOM to continue to work closely with all stakeholders to help ameliorate the plight of irregular migrants. We will, in that regard, encourage the IOM to continue to prioritize its collaborative work with all stakeholders, particularly, Member and Observer States which, be they sending, transit and or receiving States to forestall the continued and indeed worsening hardships and fatalities that confront many migrants. Ghana commends the IOM for organizing the African Regional Economic Communities meeting held in Geneva, in October 2014

aimed at promoting a continent-wide coherence in migration management within Africa and with other regions. We commend the IOM, again, for its support to the victims of the Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

Ghana takes this opportunity to call upon all States parties of the IOM to endeavour to extend their support to the drafting committee of the post-2015 Development Plan, particularly, with regard to the inclusion of as many targets and goals as possible on migration. Migration is a veritable wheel for poverty eradication and social development and this has been proven by the impact of the huge and ever-growing financial transfers across the world, alongside the opportunities that it brings to very poor families to raise venture capital, educate themselves and contribute to the eradication of extreme poverty.

Ghana wishes to appeal to all Member States, which are yet to do so, to consider conferring the appropriate diplomatic privileges and immunities to the Organisation in order to facilitate the operational effectiveness of the IOM and its country Teams.

Ghana has since the establishment of the Diaspora Affairs Bureau under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration moved on to commence the gathering of much more detailed information on her Diaspora community through Ghana's Diplomatic Missions. This should enable close engagement with the Ghanaian Diaspora as part of an inclusive national development programme. We encourage the IOM to deepen its collaboration with other stakeholders to enhance its capacity to assist developing countries to acquire more empirical information for policy formulation and implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

The IOM can continue to count on the support of Ghana towards the attainment of its agreed objectives for the benefit of migrants.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.