

**NIGERIA STATEMENT AT THE 105<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)  
COUNCIL 25 – 28 NOVEMBER, 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to deeply appreciate the Director General, Ambassador William Lacy Swing for his dedication and continuous provision to member states lucid reports on the activities of IOM in the past years as well as measures the organization is putting in place to address the many challenges facing migration and migrants around the world.

We have noted the initiatives taken by IOM to ensure that the recommendations of the United Nations High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, particularly on the need for the respect of rights of migrants, perception of migrants and migration in general and the reflection of migration in national and global development agenda are given the desired attention. We urge the Director General to intensify efforts on establishing a credible Migration Governance Framework that promotes partnerships and collaboration among states to address the complex migration challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

The Nigerian delegation commends IOM's commitment towards ensuring that the transfer costs of remittances and fees paid to recruiters of migrants are reduced considerably. Certainly, the high costs of remittance transfers that currently stand at 8.36% globally, and about 20% within African countries,

according to World Bank figures, are undermining the benefits of migration, especially for migrants and their families in poor countries.

My delegation therefore supports the IOM initiative of **a joint pilot project with the Universal Postal Union** that would ensure that the UPU offers cheaper remittance services particularly in developing countries. Furthermore, we urge the IOM to continue to work on the overall reduction of remittance charges from 5 – 10 % in line with the stated objectives of the G8 countries Declaration in 2009. In the same vein, the management of IOM should continue to engage in the promotion of ethical recruitment practices by labour employers around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, my delegation believes that the approval of a 3 year (2013 – 2015) budget strengthening plan by Council last year and the adoption of programme of cost efficiencies and alternate funding sources, present ample opportunities for the administration to strengthen its core functions and enhance its effectiveness and intervention in the face of numerous challenges facing migrants today.

I thank you.

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