



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**Statement to the 105th Session of
the Council of the International
Organization for Migration (IOM) by
the Zambian delegation.**

Geneva, 25th to 28th November 2014

**Mr. Chairperson,
Honorable Ministers present,
Excellencies,
Director General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Zambian government and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to join other delegations who have spoken before me in welcoming the new members to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and to take this opportunity to Congratulate Your Excellency, Ambassador Sammie EDDICO on your election as Chairperson of the 105th Session of the Council. You can be assured of Zambia's support during your chairmanship. I also wish to extend our congratulations to the two Vice Chairpersons and the Rapporteur on their election to the Bureau.

Mr. Chairperson,

Zambia aligns herself with statement delivered by the Republic of Botswana on behalf of the African group and wishes to congratulate the Director General, Ambassador William Lacy Swing for the highly informative and comprehensive report presented to the Council on the existing Global migration trends and the analysis of the successes as well as challenges faced by International Organization for Migration (IOM) during the year under review and the efforts being undertaken to

overcome the identified challenges and the vision for the year 2015 and beyond. I am confident that IOM possess the desired expertise necessary to make it possible to overcome the unprecedented prevailing human mobility and migrant governance problems prevailing world over. Therefore, the strides by the IOM council to admit unprecedented 14 organisations of the Civil Society and United Nations Agencies in an effort to position itself as a leading UN migration Agency come at the right time when partnership than ever before should strengthenrd.

Mr. Chairperson,

Zambia applauds the different strategies that IOM has embarked upon to respond to the many Challenges bordering on various migration issues especially in the Middle East, South Sudan and the Ebola hit West African countries. The challenges emanating from these regions are, but burdens on shared responsibility by all stakeholders.

We will, therefore, continue to recognize the enormous support the IOM offers to its member states and in particular to the Zambian Government through mostly the Ministry of Home Affairs in curbing Human Trafficking, Overseas resettlement of refugees, Immigration Border management and Movement,

Emergency and Post-Crisis Migration Management. Zambia stands firm to continue to demonstrate its commitment to the protection of the rights of migrants especially the vulnerable mostly the unaccompanied minors, women and children. This is evident by the development and rolling out of 'Protection Tools for Vulnerable Migrants, which includes a well established National Referral Mechanism for all national actors. These migrant management tools were developed and implemented with technical and financial support from IOM and other cooperating partners.

Mr. Chairperson,

In finding durable solutions for refugees and former refugees living in the country, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has continued to host them mostly from neighboring countries, the horn of Africa and beyond. I wish to report to this council that the local integration of 10,000 former Angolan refugees is progressing well and so far about 6,000 of these people are currently receiving their residence permits and title to land which they will permanently occupy. Further, efforts to reach to all who may be self – settled are being undertaken. The Government of Zambia with support from UNHCR had carried out a verification exercise from 3rd August to 15th October, 2014. About 3,000 were found expressing their desire to return to Angola if support was provided. It is in this regard that

Zambia is looking forward to IOM's continued support to facilitate the humane repatriation of these people as was the case before when close to 10,000 spontaneously settled Angolan were successfully repatriated.

Mr. Chairperson,

The need for IOM to foster partnerships cannot be over emphasized, in this regard Zambia wishes to applaud IOM in its continued efforts to look to new partnerships and strengthen existing ones to enable it meet the current challenges being experienced in migrant protection and assistance. We particularly wish to appreciate the partnership of IOM with UNHCR and the entire International Community in line with the 3 Ps (Preparedness, Partnership and Professionalism) as alluded to by the Director General in the area of finding durable solutions for refugees, asylum seekers and other irregular migrants.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, Zambia wishes to commit her support and within her capabilities to ensure that IOM takes its rightful role as a leading UN Migration Agency by supporting all its efforts.

I thank you.