

IGAD'S SPEECH IN THE IOM'S ANNUAL MEETINGS

26-29 November 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor and privilege for me to be with you all here during this August meeting. Allow me from the outset to thank the IOM for inviting IGAD and for the ideal cooperation and collaboration between our two sister organizations.

It is indeed a model and IGAD expresses its deep appreciation and full satisfaction for this partnership currently exists between our two institutions and for the generous Technical Assistance that IOM continues to extend to IGAD.

Let me also take this early opportunity to thank abundantly the Swiss Government for the very generous Grant that it donated to IGAD for supporting mechanisms on Migration governance, Enhancing regional cooperation and dialogue on Migration through the RCP and for Capacity building and advocacy to address mixed migration in the Horn of Africa .

Excellencies

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I will not dwell much into the historical past of IGAD. Suffice it to say, IGAD is one of the eight RECs that constitute the building blocks of the African Economic Community (AEC) according to the Abuja Treaty. Therefore, all the integration agenda are anchored on the RECs such as IGAD.

Within this integration context and particularly the political integration, IGAD has kicked started its cooperation with IOM by signing an MOU in 2006 which has practically launched its migration program. Since then, our cooperation and collaboration with IOM has resulted in the following:

1. The development of the first Regional Migration Policy Framework in the continent that is modeled on the AU Framework adopted in Banjul in 2006. The RMPF has been adopted by IGAD council of ministers and an action plan for its implementation has been developed awaiting validation by member states and key stakeholders. IOM is overseeing the publication of the framework

2. The launch of the IGAD Regional Consultative Process on Migration in 2008 that has since grown and expanded in scope. The RCP acts as a dialogue platform for member states to enhance cooperation in migration governance. IOM continues to support IGAD both technically by availing experts for RCP dialogues as well as financially. IGAD has through IOM continued to participate in the Global RCP meetings in Botswana and earlier this year in Peru. It is a cooperation that we appreciate at IGAD especially since it helps us to learn from other RCPs and regions of the world.
3. The launch of the Regional Migration Coordination Committee which is composed of heads of Immigration and Labor of IGAD member states; this forum provides a space considered crucial to address migration challenges and opportunities facing the region. Bilateral cooperation on specific issues also emanates from such discussions.
4. The Red Sea initiative which addresses the Health needs of the mobile population along the Ports of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Not only that but our cooperation also been furthered through the following:

- There is continuing cooperation in border management through training for immigration officers with the support of the IOM supported African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) in Moshi, Tanzania. The enhanced capacity goes a long way to making border management effective for enhanced integration which is IGADs key agenda.
- In the next three years, an IGAD, Swiss funded capacity building program will be implemented largely through IOM country offices taking advantage of their long expertise in migration management and presence in all IGAD member states.
- There are many other areas envisioned for future cooperation in combating human trafficking, addressing pastoral mobility, labor migration amongst others.

We at IGAD value very much our partnership and look forward to its continuation to ensure that migration remains humane and orderly for the benefit of all.

With these few remarks, I wish to conclude my speech wishing you every success in your deliberations and thank you for your attention.