

**Zimbabwe's Statement at the 103rd session of the IOM Council: 28 November 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

Zimbabwe joins others who have spoken before in heartily congratulating you for being elected the Chairperson of the IOM Bureau. In this regard, we wish to extend our best wishes to you and the rest of the Bureau Members. My delegation counts on your combined experiences for us to move the migration agenda forward. For our part, we will continue to render support to the Bureau when needed.

Mr. Chairman,

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statement made by Angola on behalf of the African Group.

We warmly welcome Turkmenistan, the Republics of Iceland, Fiji and Marshall Islands as well as Observer Organisations who are now part of the IOM family.

My delegation would like to commend the Director General for his detailed report titled 'Continuity, coherence and change – Guideposts to dignified, orderly, safe and humane mobility', which gives an account of how the Organisation has been faring since last year's Council. In it the DG outlines some of the most recent trends in international migration and provides for the way forward in dealing with the unprecedented human mobility. In this regard, we would like to congratulate

Ambassador Swing and his team for their efforts to play a leading role in the migration discourse through the convening of the Diaspora Ministerial Conference and active participation in the Global Migration Group (GMG), leading up to the second UN High level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD).

Indeed, the success of the HLD, which is reflected in the outcomes and proposals for the Post 2015 Development Agenda, is also reflective of the vibrant leadership of the IOM.

Mr. Chairman,

The HLD sent a clear message about the relevance of international migration to the United Nations agenda and to this end, recognized the important role played by IOM in the area of international migration. The IOM should therefore continue with its excellent work by following up on the conclusions of the HLD in order to implement significant aspects of the Consensus Declaration and subsequently influence the inclusion of migration in the crafting of the post-2015 Development Agenda.

Sadly, in spite of these positive developments, the world continues to grapple with the rise in anti-migrant sentiment, unaccompanied minors, large-scale global youth unemployment, a surge in multiple complex humanitarian emergencies and loss of lives in the course of irregular migration. To this end, we commend the IOM and other humanitarian agencies for the sterling role they have played in mitigating the effects of

disasters such as the recent boat accidents in the waters surrounding Lampedusa Island and Malta.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased with IOM's continued support to the African continent. The Organisation continues to play a significant role in the Migration Dialogue for Africa (MIDA), a platform through which Africa coordinates its responses to migration challenges. We look forward to the support and participation of IOM in the planned African Union Extra-Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Employment and Poverty scheduled for September 2014 in Burkina Faso. This is in recognition of the fact that migration in general and labour migration in particular, are at the centre of today's employment discourse in Africa.

Turning to Southern Africa, my delegation wishes to thank the IOM for its unwavering support to the initiatives aimed at coming up with a regional labour migration policy framework, which were mooted under the banner of the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), a platform set up by IOM and its member states within the sub region.

Mr. Chairman,

At a national level, Zimbabwe is grateful for the different projects that are being promoted by the Organisation. The recently approved funding of the documentation project through the IOM Development Fund will go a long way in supporting Zimbabwe's efforts to promote demand driven and safe migration on the part of Zimbabweans wishing to seek employment elsewhere in our region.

In conclusion, allow me to express my delegation's gratitude and appreciation to the Director General for responding to the demands and requests of the African Group to ensure equal representation of Africans in senior positions within the IOM. We welcome the appointment of two Regional Directors in Pretoria and Nairobi for the first time in the history of the Organisation. As part of strengthening the core structure, we would like to see a continuation of such appointments not only in Africa, but even in other regions so that IOM truly reflects its global character.

I thank you!