STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, AMBASSADOR MOHAMED MAALIM MAHAMUD, AT THE 88TH SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you and the other Members of the Bureau on your election. I also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Jānis Kārkliņš, and the other Members of the Bureau for their distinguished and exemplary service over the past year.

Kenya is pleased to welcome the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Republic of Estonia, Federal Republic of Brazil and Republic of Turkey to the Membership of IOM.

We also welcome the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) as an observer.

Mr. Chairman, right from the outset we would like to align ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Algeria on behalf of the African Group. We are also committed to a multilateral approach to enhanced cooperation among States in the Management of Migration at the regional and global level based on a spirit of trust, partnership and good neighbourly relations. Kenya has been associated with IOM as a member since its creation.
Mr. Chairman,

Kenya remains committed to the International Agenda for Migration Management and the IOM’s International Dialogue on Migration. Kenya believes the outcomes of this forum will assist states in fully realising the positive contributions that Migrants and Migration can make to their society.

Kenya as other Member States relies on IOM services to assist in delivering on our humanitarian commitments and value our continuing partnership with IOM in promoting the benefits of orderly migration.

The IOM in partnership with the Kenyan government will soon implement the capacity-building in migration and management project. The project activities will include capacity building, advisory services and technical assistance on migration matters, migration health, information, counter trafficking, migration of nationals and aliens, assistance to refugees, internally and externally displaced persons and other persons in need, return of qualified human resources and other assisted return activities.
Mr. Chairman,

international migration held on Tuesday and Wednesday

The migration dialogue at its 88th Council Session was very stimulating and provided a sound basis for reflection and debate. It emerged that it is not possible to deal with the various migration dynamics without effectively addressing major interlinked policy issues.

Kenya hopes the input received at this Session will contribute to produce a substantial working document for the further elaboration of the Berne Initiative. The concept of an International Agenda for Migration Management draws attention to some key migration issues, the fundamental rights and dignity of migrants regardless of their status,

- The need to carefully balance the rights and obligations of states against the rights of migrants
- The increasing level of significance attached to migration and development
- The notion of adequate resources for Migration Management
- Effective technical cooperation and capacity building

And last but not least, the notion of Partnership, including an understanding of the impact of national policies on all stakeholders, including other states.

For all these, we commend the Administration and encourage it to pursue a path of focused workshops and
debates to further the cause of improved Migration Management.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by making some reference to some issues concluded at the ninety second Session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance.

On the issue of outstanding contributions to the Administrative part of the budget, Kenya commends Sudan for clearing all its outstanding obligations. We also commend the countries that have entered into repayment plans with IOM and encourage the others with outstanding arrears to conclude their repayment initiatives.

On the Programme and Budget for 2005, we welcome the review of the administrative structure being undertaken as part of ongoing efforts to provide migration services in an efficient and effective manner. We are encouraged by the concerted efforts of the IOM Administration to reduce costs through delocalisation of some functions to Manila and by redefining the role of some existing missions with regional functions, as well as, the designation of some existing offices as special liaison missions.
Mr. Chairman,

Kenya is happy to note that the Administration has allocated some resources, US$ 435,000.00, to support Developing Member States and those with Economies in Transition in the 1085 Facility.

We encourage further investment in this facility through voluntary contributions from Member States.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman