



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

STATEMENT

BY

MR. K.W.D. KIHOMANO

**DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION SERVICES
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**AT THE 90TH SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL
GENEVA, 29TH – 2ND DECEMBER, 2005**

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**Mr. Chairman,
The Director General,
Deputy Director General,
Fellow Delegates,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is with great pleasure once again to have the privilege to attend and address this crucial gathering.

First and foremost however, I wish, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and on my own behalf to congratulate you Honourable Chairperson and your bureau, the Director General, Deputy Director General and the entire staff of the International Organization for Migration for the job well done during the past one year. Ever since we met here last November a lot has been done in fostering mutual cooperation in handling migration issues around the globe. My country, as I will mention later has benefited a lot from the IOM's work.

Mr. Chairman,

The past one year also has witnessed the IOM and other humanitarian agencies facing great challenges in carrying out their activities. Natural disasters in different parts of the World like the Tsunami and others have put pressure on the already saturated terrain of IOM's humanitarian activities. These challenges notwithstanding, the Organization has done a commendable job.

Globalization process on the other hand has continued to impact our communities in varied ways. In Africa regional integration is slowly but steadily taking shape. Both the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to which my country Tanzania belong have made remarkable progress.

In the SADC Region, the Heads of states Summit held in Gaborone, Botswana finally approved the adoption of the SADC Protocol on facilitation of the Free Movement of People. The modus operandi of the protocol is being fine tuned within the framework of member countries internal legal regimes. Yet this was quite an achievement given the meandering process it has taken to reach this stage. Very recently, Tanzania and Mozambique have signed Visa Abolition Agreement for their citizens travelling to and from these neighbourly and friendly states. Again this is a big step forward in cementing the historical cordial relations of our countries dating back to the days of liberation struggles in the continent. We are happy to note that the

signing of the Agreement went hand in hand with the laying of the foundation stone for the building of the unity bridge across the Ruvuma river which forms the border between us.

The “Umoja” bridge as is known in Kiswahili (Umoja means Unity) will go a long way towards revamping economic activities in the Mtwara Development Corridor comprising of Southern Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia all members of SADC. In the East Africa Region - Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have continued grappling with the realities of the Customs Union phase of integration. The Protocol establishing the same was signed by the three partner states in January, 2004. We anticipate that very soon Rwanda and Burundi will be admitted to the EAC after having achieved much in the democratisation process and having made great efforts to restore peace and stability in these countries. We sincerely commend our brothers and sisters of Rwanda and Burundi for making colossal contribution to the stabilization of the otherwise volatile Great Lakes Region.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Mr. Chairman,

With all these developments in Africa and other regions of the World the need to strengthen capacities to manage migration cannot be over emphasized. To this end I take this singular opportunity to pay

tribute to the IOM and our other development Partners for sponsoring a series of training Programmes and actually supporting various projects that address matters of capacity building.

In both SADC and EAC member states a number of seminars, workshop and symposia have been held with a view to expanding the horizons of knowledge of migration managers. Subjects like document examination, fraud, ethics and corruption, human trafficking and smuggling, migration legislation and policy and many others have been taught and made great impact in the way we carry our daily activities.

Tanzania has learned much from these training sessions. As if that was not a great contribution enough to the IOM with the support of donors like the government of the United States, Netherlands, Britain to mention but a few have provided various equipment particularly to our entry/exist points.

These equipments are helping in facilitating legal cross border movement while at the same time controlling the unwarranted movements and anti-social elements like terrorism, drug trafficking illicit arms trade and human trafficking or smuggling.

Introduction to the use of modern communication technology is another area that IOM has invested heavily in our countries.

Tanzania is a beneficiary of provision of various computer pieces donated by IOM on behalf of other donors to Zanzibar which is an integral part of our United Republic.

We are keen to establish a training facility at Moshi Municipality in north eastern Municipality of Tanzania. As we are refurbishing some buildings we bought there to set up the facility IOM once again has offered to assist in refurbishing one of the buildings that will host classes and offices. Provision of furniture and training equipment has also been promised. I take this opportunity once again to convey our Government's sincere gratitude to the IOM and donors who have promised to make that great development.

Capacity building in training and provision of equipment is our major need as we have a total of 55 entry points in our eight borders we share with our neighbours in East and Southern Africa. Once we have institutionalized training we will go a long way towards enhancing our capacities.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman,

There is much more I can say. Time is not our best ally. Suffice it to mention that we have benefited a lot ever since we joined this organization in 1998 and since IOM established a country office in

Tanzania a year ago. The first phase of Capacity Building Project in Migration Management in East Africa is approaching its end come April, 2006.

From what we have gained in this first phase we think and actually hope that IOM will see the necessity to have continuity of in vitiated programmes, one way or the other. I must point out that Tanzania at least, but hopefully so our other partners in the EAC will make a formal request to the IOM for another phase of the project. This project has complemented much of our efforts to integrate the three countries in forms of harmonized migration management procedures, harmonized review of legislation and harmonized training. We think these efforts should be continued as we continue to move our Region to higher levels of cooperation.

We promise to continue to be active members of the organization by meeting our financial obligations and others within our capability. We are here to learn, to share knowledge and experience with our colleagues and friends.

Thank you very much.