



KENYA

## **STATEMENT BY KENYA DURING THE 106<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)**

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**Chairperson,  
Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Kenya aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ethiopia on behalf of the African Group.

1. We would like to begin by congratulating you on your election as the President of the Council together with your two Vice Presidents and the Rapporteur. We assure you of Kenya's support during your term. We also commend the immediate former chairperson H.E. Ambassador Edico of Ghana for the able manner in which he guided our deliberations during his tenure.
2. We congratulate St. Kitts and Nevis, the Republic of Kiribati and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe for their admission as new members, including all the

organizations that have been admitted as observers of the IOM. We look forward to working with them in the promotion of migrants' welfare.

**Chairperson,**

3. Kenya welcomes the Report of the Director General that provides details of the work of the Organization for the period 2014. This was both comprehensive and incisive. We appreciate the Director General's continued pursuance of the themes of his second mandate – continuity, coherence and change. This will help to strengthen the Organization further even during the proliferation of crises that have continued to displace people.
  
4. We further appreciate the continued strengthening of IOMs partnerships with Regional Economic Communities, Civil Society Organizations and Private-Sector Entities. This multi-sectoral approach is necessary for increased effectiveness.
  
5. We take cognizance of the changes that are under way especially where most needed. This includes the new policy initiatives on a Migration Governance Framework; the Humanitarian Policy Framework; the Migration Advocacy

Guidelines; the Migrant Protection Policy and its Operational Framework.

6. IOM being the lead agency in Migration issues has a major role in promoting the protection of migrants in collaboration with states, who have the overall responsibility of providing protection. The development of a policy on protection is therefore welcome as it will enable a rights based approach in managing migration and assist in upholding the rights of migrants, who are in most case are vulnerable.
7. We appreciate the successful hosting of the Conference on Migrants and Cities held recently in October; and look forward to the ongoing preparations for a 2016 Conference on Counter-Smuggling and Saving Lives; the continued work to create a more balanced migration dialogue; initiatives to reduce remittance and recruitment costs for migrants, as well as all other meetings on the horizon aimed at improving the livelihoods of migrants.

**Chairperson,**

8. 2015 has indeed been dominated by media attention on migration. Unfortunately the migration narrative continues to be negative. The increased intensity of human mobility

witnessed during the year has been in most cases, forced. Conflicts, human rights violations and poverty have continued to be the drivers of these forced migrations.

9. We note that heightened security concerns over the last few years have led states to take increasingly protective measures to prevent migrants from reaching, or finding succor within their borders. However, while acknowledging that States have a duty to protect and secure their borders, it should be understood that migration must be managed in a humane manner and the human rights of migrants protected irrespective of their origins circumstances and status.

10. The international community must therefore work together to protect vulnerable migrants. We must promote tolerance; cohesion and integration to enable migrants contribute to development in both the sending and receiving countries and thereby be a contributor of poverty reduction.

11. The inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a pointer to the

increasing realization of the role of migration in development. Kenya commends the IOM for its contributions in support of that decision. We urge that the IOM continues to play a key role in the implementation of the migration related targets of the sustainable Development Goals over the next 15 year period.

**Chairperson,**

- 12.** Climate change is increasingly becoming a driver of human mobility. The establishment of a division on migration, environment and climate change in 2014 is commendable. The partnership between the IOM and bodies such as the Nansen Initiative, the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the MICIC to address the relationship between climate change, environment and migration is key to addressing human displacement, due to natural disasters. In this regard, we look forward to the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) later this year which should position the IOM as a key player in the management of climate induced migration, particularly on policy, capacity building, research and operationalization of migration and climate change activities and on opening access to climate funding mechanisms.

13. We note the introduction of a phased approach to carrying out participatory gender audits throughout the Organization and that a first gender audit of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has been carried out. We hope that this will be extended to our Region in order to encourage equity and diversity within the organization while ensuring gender participation.

Finally Chair, we wish to assure the IOM of Kenya's continued commitment and support.

**I thank you**

