



STATEMENT

of

Lesotho

By

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at the

106th Session of the council of IOM

World Intellectual Property Organisation(WIPO)

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24 -27 NOVEMBER 2015

Chairman

Excellencies

Distinguished participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the very outset, my delegation extends warm greetings from the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho to this august 106th Session of the Council of International Organization for Migration (IOM).

This Session comes amidst the global natural disasters which displace people in an unprecedented manner in the history of mankind as well as conflicts in both Africa and the Middle East. As UN Deputy Secretary General puts it: "More people have been uprooted from their homes than any time since World War 11. People are fleeing war, persecution, abuse and despair. The images of

suffering haunt our conscience and defy our values. Tales of heroism have stirred our souls. We are all familiar with the scale of our challenge-around 240 million international migrants and more than 60 million refugees and forcibly displaced persons”. And I wish to add that the paradox of humanity is that it has upheld the free and easy movement of goods than human life.

Mr Chairman

For Lesotho, the voice of migrant cries louder in our soul like any other. This means that the issue of migration is a way of life for Lesotho. Lesotho is the only country in the world that is surrounded, enclaved and landlocked by a single neighbour. Consequently, every single household of the 2million Basotho is directly affected by migration. Lesotho knows of no other life style, but that of migration. The hardships that go with migration on both the migrants and their families are our daily bread.

This plight has now been exacerbated by the issue of internal resettlements caused by implementation of developmental projects for construction of large water dams in the highlands of Lesotho.

Chairperson

Lesotho has also formulated a Multi Stakeholder Committee called National Consultative Committee on Migration (NCC), whose function is to drive migration agenda in Lesotho.

Chairperson

Lesotho this year in 2015, has just reached a milestone bilateral agreement on Free Movement and Special Dispensation for thousands of its migrants with its only neighbour, the Republic of South Africa as well as Special Dispensation for the thousands of migrants including women and children residing in the Republic.

This demonstrates the full commitment on both countries on the promotion of humane and orderly migration for the benefit of migrants, their families and the society and should be viewed as a best practice between neighboring countries.

Chairperson,

The challenge in a short, medium and long-term however are as follows:

A) capacity for registration and maintenance of reliable data base for all these migrants who have to be given identity cards and passports to move freely and work for their families.

Secondly, Lesotho is faced with the issue of capacity to establish Sustainable Development measures in integrating these migrants into the socio-economic Systems of our two countries in the longrun.

Lastly, **Mr. Chairman**, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the IOM for piloting the issue of migration to be included as part of Sustainable Development Goals. We believe Mr Chairman that the solution to the issue of migration is for us to focus on the CAUSES of the migration. What can we do as IOM to go further and facilitate the setting up of Dispute Resolution Centres of Good Governance in the conflict -and -war-torn-areas.

IN CONCLUSION, Mr Chairman, I wish to take this opportunity again to congratulate you and members of your Bureau, for the commendable manner in which you steered the work of this Session. The delegation of Lesotho has no doubt that the 106th Session will come to a closure with the desired results.

I thank you for your attention