

**107<sup>TH</sup> IOM COUNCIL SESSION: 5<sup>TH</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND THE IOM 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**STATEMENT OF THE AFRICA GROUP DELIVERED BY GHANA ON**  
**MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2016**

Thank you Mr. Chair for this opportunity to speak, on this subject, on behalf of the African Group. The Group congratulates you and the entire Bureau on your election. You can count on our support.

Mr. Chair,

2016 has indeed been a remarkable year for the IOM, a year that the Africa Group believes will be remembered for years to come. After 65 years of the formation of this Organisation, the IOM has finally become a Related Agency of the United Nations, thanks to the sustained and proactive efforts made by Ambassador William Swing, the Director-General; the IOM Administration and the collective inputs made by Members States.

The Africa Group is hopeful that this new relationship will help tremendously in achieving the migration-related targets in Global Agenda 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063 to promote orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of all people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

The Africa Group commends the Director-General and the IOM Administration for the efforts aimed at achieving universal membership of the Organisation, in particular, efforts towards 100% membership of the IOM in Africa.

In this vein, the Group commends the hard work by the Coordinator and the IOM Senior Regional Advisor for Africa, in their attempt to enlist the membership of Equatorial Guinea, which is the only non-IOM African country. The admission into the

IOM this year of China, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and, earlier today the Kingdom of Tonga testifies to the remarkable achievements of the IOM.

The Africa Group notes with appreciation IOM technical and financial support provided to many African countries through the IDF, including Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe and many others in developing national migration policies to improve migration governance.

Furthermore, we commend the IOM for the support provided the Africa Capacity Building Centre in Moshi, Tanzania that has trained over 4,000 Immigration and Border Officials since its inception in 2009.

The Africa Group welcomes the Director-General's active engagements with the Group on several partnership/fora activities, including his participation in every African Summit and, in particular for his personal support and active participation in all the Pan African Forums on Migration which took place in Kigali, Rwanda; Accra, Ghana and Lusaka, Zambia.

The Group looks forward to the DG's participation in the next Africa Forum in 2017 expected to take place either in Djibouti or Uganda, as both Countries have generously offered to host the Forum to deal with migration issues. We commend the IOM for playing a lead role in the lead up to the Forum, as well as being a co-sponsor of the Forum together with the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The Africa Group appreciates the provision of a Technical Secretariat for the Annual Forum. We expect the next forum to contribute to the Global Compact to promote orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration in the lead up to the International Conference in 2018.

To conclude, Mr. Chair, while we acknowledge the Director-General's and the SRA's regular briefings and updates to the Africa Group on Global migration trends and frameworks with particular focus on Africa, the Africa Group looks forward to a successful Council Session this week, and we assure you of our support and cooperation in making this happen.

I thank you Chair.