

107th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF IOM
KINGDOM OF TONGA COUNTRY STATEMENT:

Director General of IOM, Mr. William Lacy Swing,

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is an honour to extend the sincere gratitude and appreciation of the Kingdom of Tonga to the IOM and all the Member States for your endorsement and approval for Tonga to become a member of IOM.

2. The Kingdom of Tonga, like many other countries, continues to receive numbers of irregular arrivals by sea and by air.

Mr. Director-General,

3. It is our hope that our membership in the IOM, this will allow us to work together with all the Member States to ensure the orderly and humane managements of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including trafficking in person, climate change issues, refuges and internally displaced of people, to name a few.

4. Our region is small and vulnerable to all sorts of illegal activities and movement of people, thus our cooperation on border security and coordination will strengthen our law enforcement agencies to combat illegal migration and to be more proactive in managing our border and our region.
5. We will remain committed to taking a comprehensive approach to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management, to advance understanding of migration issues, to encourage social and economic development through migration and of course to uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.
6. We strongly appreciate and welcome excellent cooperation arrangements with all the Member States and looking forward to a successful cooperation with you all.
7. The Government of Tonga is deeply honoured and anticipates that by becoming a member of IOM today, will allow us the opportunity to express our views on a global platform among international partners on migration issues.
8. This will also be a forum for us to voice specific concerns impacting our country; and through this engagement, the Kingdom of Tonga would be able to draw on the experiences of other Member States and position the country to better address migration issues.
9. To this extend, the Government of Tonga will be committed to contribute to activities that will assist in achieving practical solutions for all migration issues.
10. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.