

30th November, 2017

Statement by
H.E. Faduma Abdullahi Mohamud
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Federal Republic of Somalia
IOM 108 session of the council

Madam chairperson,

Let me start first in congratulating you and your bureau for your election on this council, I am sure with your wisdom and professional experience both the IOM and its member will succeed on the session.

Let me also commend the previous bureau with the chairmanship of Amb. Quinn of Australia for the outstanding work they did during their office period.

Madam chair, we welcome the report of the director General Mr. Lacy William Swing and commend him of the Growth of the Organization in terms of number of projects, staff members, in the field specially, and member states; that witnesses the outstanding support this organization is giving to the people in need. IOM has been operational in Somalia since 2006 and in 2015 relocated the majority of operations to the capital, Mogadishu. On behalf of my government I would like to reiterate how we are grateful to IOM, United Nations and donor countries for their continues support.

Madam chair

With today's movements of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees presenting significant challenges in many countries and regions, reinforced international cooperation and responsibility sharing is urgently required among states to respond to their need for protection, assistance and durable solution.

We all know, Migration is not new phenomena it is as old as humankind and will continue in the future. However because of increasing of economic, social, political and environmental challenges which affects the normal life of regular human being we live nowadays in a period in which more people are on the move than ever before.

Madam chairperson, In Somalia, we see all shades of the migration phenomenon – from forced migration within and from the country, to mixed flows transiting through, to

departure and return of our best and brightest. Addressing all these aspects to the benefit of individuals and the country will require efforts for years to come.

Somalia has long been a country on the move, with mobility being a defining feature of the nomadic culture. However, more than two decades of civil war, famine and natural disasters have left the country with a large internally displaced population. Over one million Somalis live as refugees in the surrounding region and more than that have gone further afield. The complexity of the crisis afflicting Somalia has also made it a transit point for precarious boat migration across the Gulf of Aden where hundreds lose their lives every year.

Somali Government is committed to rebuilding of peace and security, as well as political and economic development of the country. In terms of humanitarian issues, the government nominated a cabinet level position in order to address the current drought situation and to decrease the cause of migration.

What is also important to mention is the support of Somalia Diaspora to their origin country. In addition to their financial support reaching two billion dollars, they provide technical skills, advice leadership and investment.

For Somalia, what concerns us more is the living standard of migrants, where ever they are in camps, displaced in their countries or returnees to their origin country. Among others, what is essential is improving the protection, health and dignity of migrants without discrimination and irrespective of their legal status. The inclusion of migrant in host societies, access to basic services and gender responsive services is important because in this way there will be a switching effort to development approaches to help them become productive and self sufficient again instead of being a burden to the hosting country.

We also believe that, with strong government leadership and the mobilization of multi-year flexible funding, can provide sustainable livelihoods and adequate standards of living to migrants in the world.

In conclusion, it is important to highlight the need for a collective approach to this global issue and address the challenges.