



**Mr. President,**

**Director General,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

At the very onset Kenya wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf the African Group.

We would also like to begin by congratulating you and members of your bureau for having been elected to provide leadership to our organisation. We assure you of Kenya's support during your term of office.

We commend the outgoing Chairperson, the Permanent Representative of Chile for the able way he guided the Council affairs during his tenure.

The Kenyan delegation would further like to congratulate Mr. Antonio Vitorino on his appointment as the Director General of the International Organization for Migration and to assure him of Kenya's support.

My delegation welcomes the Republic of Uzbekistan that has joined the organization, the IMF and the International Emergency and Development Aid that have been admitted as observers and look forward to working with them in the promotion of migration governance and management.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation welcomes the report of the Director General that provides the details of the work of the organisation for the period 2017. We also take note of the technical support rendered by the IOM to the development process of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) as well as its envisaged role of coordinating the United Nations' network on migration once the framework is adopted.

In addition my delegation has confidence in the IOM providing secretariat services to the network, given that it is the lead agency on migration issues.

**Mr. President**, now that we are on the verge of adopting the GCM, my delegation would like to call upon all member states to embrace the framework and take measures to give effect to it, noting that it is a framework mainly built upon existing international instruments and best practices.

In a nutshell we are not reinventing the wheel but rather recommitting ourselves to do that which is good for the community of nations and migrants in line with the Global Agenda 2030.

Kenya supports the sentiments expressed by the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the African group, on the need for African member states to focus on the implementation of the GCM once it is adopted, working with Regional Economic Communities, the Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations, Trade Unions and indeed the UN Agencies in the migration network.

### **President**

My delegation appreciates the continued support by the IOM to Kenya in particular in the development of policy and legal frameworks, aimed at promoting safe, orderly and humane migration.

Under the auspices of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM), Kenya has so far developed a draft Migration Policy which provides a roadmap to address the impacts and challenges of migration.

This draft policy is informed by relevant international, and regional instruments including the tenets of the GCM, as well as national legislation and policies that relate to migration.

As we are all aware, migrants make a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of both the host and receiving countries in terms of skills, expertise and transfer of knowledge. However, on their part, they face various challenges, one of which is remitting money, as the cost of remittances is high. To this end, as part of its efforts to give effect to the GCM, the Kenyan government is ready to engage financial institutions involved in money transfer, with a view to identifying ways to reduce the cost of remittances.

Finally, my government appreciates the capacity building support being provided by the IOM towards various programmes in Kenya, including strengthening the capacity of the Government to manage National Identity Programmes, and training for foreign private employment agencies and

government officials, aimed at promoting ethical recruitment of persons to work outside the country.

My government also appreciates the support the IOM is rendering to Kenya's Counter Trafficking of Persons Secretariat, which is responsible for assisting victims of trafficking and providing technical support to establish government run shelters.

**I Thank You**