



*110<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council*

*Statement*

*by*

*H.E Ambassador Zenebe Kebede Korcho,*

*Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the UN at*

*Geneva*

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*Mr. Chairperson,*

*Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director General of the IOM*

*Ambassadors,*

*Distinguished Representatives,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

**Ethiopia fully aligns itself with the statement made by Namibia on behalf of the Africa Group.**

Allow me to start by congratulating once again the Chairperson of the Council and Bureau members on their election and assure you our full support in discharge of your mandate. Permit me also, to congratulate the Lebanese Republic on its admission as member of the IOM.

**Mr . Chairperson** - This year's Council meeting corresponds with the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the historic adoption of the Global Compact on Migration as first ever global framework to coordinate our actions in managing migration and improving governance at all levels. In this respect, it is gratifying to note that IOM alongside with its partners have taken several steps that allows it to be fit for purpose in providing a coordinated support to member states in the implementing the Global Compact on Migration. In this regard, the implementation of the internal reforms within the IOM and the establishment of the UN Migration Network are encouraging outcomes.

However, as the migratory flows in many parts of the world remain complex and challenging, the need for robust implementation can not be overemphasized. Hence, Ethiopia believes IOM needs to further deepen the reform process taking the implementation of the global Compact as its foremost responsibility. We are convinced that IOM needs to ensure that its work processes are fully aligned with the objectives of the Global Compact on migration both at headquarters and field levels and boosting its policy and protection capacity to better support in particular developing countries in development and implementation of migration policy. It is

equally important that the start-up funds of the UN Migration Network are adequately funded to support developing countries.

**Mr. Chairperson**

At the national level, Ethiopia is undertaking various steps towards building better migration management and migration governance frameworks to ensure that migration remains safe, regular and orderly. Accordingly, national consultations are being held with the support of IOM to draft a national migration policy. In addition, with the support of the European Union, preparations are underway to prepare a national action plan for the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration based on key objectives selected through a consultative and participatory process which involved more than 70 key government's office, NGO's civil society and partners.

In relation to harnessing diaspora's contribution to national development, the new political dispensation initiated by H.E Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed has paved the path for increased Diaspora engagement in investment and national development efforts. Accordingly, the Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund, which was launched by members of the Diaspora has continued to mobilize resources to support development initiatives in Ethiopia. The Fund has far managed to mobilize over 5 million USD over the past one year.

On the other hand, in a bid to ensure safe and regular labor migration, Ethiopia have also signed bilateral labor agreement with UAE and Saudi Arabia. We are also enforcing mandatory skills training, pre-departure orientation and stringent due diligence procedure of recruitment in ensuring protection the rights of migrant workers.

**Mr. Chairperson**

Despite the various encouraging efforts to ensure migration happens through regular channels, challenges continue to emanate from human trafficking and irregular migration. Young Ethiopian's are suffering in the hands of traffickers while thousands languish in squalid prisons for unlawful entry into transit countries mainly in the Eastern and Southern route.

In responding to these challenges, the Government of Ethiopia is working on a new law that places severe penalty on traffickers including capital punishment. However, the low level of awareness about the crime of human trafficking, absence of robust sub-regional coordination in border control and lack of funds for rehabilitation of victims of trafficking are posing formidable challenges to our efforts to control human trafficking. Particularly, the absence of robust funding for return and reintegration to irregular migrants in the Southern route remains the biggest challenge in migration management. Hence, we call upon the IOM and our partners to support Ethiopia and the regional countries in fighting irregular migration and human trafficking in the Southern route that extends from Horn of Africa to South Africa.

On the other hand, Ethiopia has also experienced massive internal displacement due to adverse impact of climate change and communal clashes which forced a total of 2.8 million people to leave their localities over the past three years. The Government, however, alongside with the UN and its humanitarian partners has been working hard to respond to this IDP situation by adopting coordinated efforts in emergency response, durable solution and peace building areas. Accordingly, close to 2.1 million people have returned to their place of origin. However, the challenges remain quite daunting in rehabilitation of the returnees and restoring their livelihoods.

**Mr. Chairperson**

Finally, Ethiopia wishes to thank the IOM and our partners for the support provided in provision of core relief items to IDP's, IDP data collection and analysis and particularly in return and reintegration of stranded migrants in Yemen, Libya and other transit countries. We also would like to extend our appreciation to IOM for the newly adopted Migration Governance Program Framework for Ethiopia which will be implemented in the next five years with an outlay of 225 million USD. In closing, Ethiopia wishes reiterate its commitment to further enhance our partnership and support its to make migration safe, regular and orderly.

Thank You!