

**STATEMENT PRESENTED BY H.E. CLEOPA MAILU AMBASSADOR,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS GENEVA DURING THE 111TH SESSION OF THE
GOVERNING BODY OF THE IOM**

The Chairperson, Director General, Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the very onset Kenya wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by Niger on behalf the African Group and congratulate members of the bureau for having been elected to provide leadership to the organisation. Be assured of Kenya's support during your term of office. Furthermore, Kenya wishes to welcome Russian Federation the new member of the organisation and Malaysia the new observer and look forward to working with them in the Council.

Chairperson, Kenya welcomes the report of the Director General that outlines the work the organization carried out in the preceding year and its future plans. It is pleasing to note that the organization has done tremendous work in mitigating the socio economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants. Its work in assisting vulnerable and stranded migrants is outstanding. Furthermore, it is pleasing to note that the organization continues to work harmoniously with national authorities in discharging its mandate in this pandemic.

The organization's commitment to implement the Strategic Vision 2019-2023 inspite of the complex and challenging circumstances occasioned by the COVID -19 is noted. At the same time the adaptation by the organization to the new forms of work is commended.

Chairperson, in the spirit of strengthening regional cooperation and partnerships in the field of migration in line with objective 23 of the GCM, countries in the East African Community and the Horn of Africa have formed a forum to deal with labour migration issues. Accordingly, Kenya hosted the first Regional

Ministerial Forum on “Harmonising Labour Migration Policies in East and Horn of Africa” in January 2020. The parties agreed to formulate a plan of action whose overarching objective is to address migration issues and challenges during the period 2020-2023. Apart from giving effect to the provision of the GCM, the initiative, goes a long way towards the realization of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and other regional cooperative frameworks. At the national level, Kenya has made progress in the implementation of the objectives of the GCM. Furthermore, a review of the implementation of the GCM was undertaken by the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration.

Chairperson, Kenya is committed to address the challenges that confront migrants. It is for this reason it established a joint committee to ensure preparedness and effective response to the challenges faced by Kenyans working abroad. During the pandemic, the committee working with IOM assisted 3,685 distressed migrants and facilitated repatriation for stranded migrants. The general health care and psychosocial support offered to the vulnerable and distressed by IOM in response in this pandemic is acknowledged.

Chairperson, Kenya attaches great importance to training and researching on migration. To this end, with support from the IOM and other partners, Kenya has established an Institute of Migration Studies within Nairobi University. The institute will create synergies with existing regional and sub-regional on migration training and research centres. Kenya welcome others partners with similar interests to collaborate with us.

Chairperson,

In closing, Kenya thanks IOM for the commitment it continues to demonstrate in addressing migration matters especially in Africa regardless of the many challenges it encounters.

I thank you.