

MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS-UNIES,
DE L'ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ET DES AUTRES
ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES
GENÈVE



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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, THE
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
AND TO OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
GENEVA

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**STATEMENT By Francis NGANTCHA
Minister Counsellor at the Cameroon Permanent
Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva**

Before

**The 90th Session of the Council
of the International Organisation
for Migration**

**On the occasion of the admission
of the Republic of Cameroon as member Of IOM.**

29 November 2005

Mr. President

Mr. Director General of the International Organisation for Migration

Mme Deputy Director – General

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen.

Today is a great day for Cameroon. On the occasion of the accession of my country to this distinguished Organisation, it is with a renewed sense of respect, responsibility and reverence that I speak before this Council.

The IOM is today universally respected and acclaimed as the leading international intergovernmental and particularly humanitarian organisation concern with migration.

Mr. President,

We have been reminded in many circumstances that globalisation is irreversible. If we consider that globalisation and migration are two sides of the same coin, then we would not be wrong to assert that migration is irreversible in our present world. Globalisation and migration with a humane and in a structured process benefits both the international society and of course individuals or migrants concerned.

Mr. President,

It is with reverence that I look at the podium and identify the Director General and of course the Deputy Director General of this Organisation. The ceremony of today would not have happened but for the untiring efforts of these two personalities to welcome Cameroon as soon as possible. Thanks particularly to the visit in March 2005 of the Deputy Director General during which she met the Prime Minister of my country that I can say crystallized the desire of Cameroon to become a full member of this Organisation.

Some might think Cameroon's association with IOM dates from today. No No No. Cameroon has benefited even as "sympathetic" active non-member of the IOM. I recall in passing the IOM programme captioned **Return of Qualified African Nationals** where Cameroon benefited as a non-target Country in the phase III of this Programme under the framework of Lomé IV. And of course the cherished on-going project called Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA CAMEROON).

Mr. President,

By joining this Organisation Cameroon looks forward to the establishment of various programmes in migration management, capacity building and in assuming its responsibilities as a legitimate member to engage with IOM on targeting the Cameroonian Diaspora so as to properly channel their contributions in form of investments and other remittances back to their country of origin for purposes of the fight against poverty.

Mr. President,

To conclude Cameroon would like to express sincere gratitude to all well wishers, international donors and other contributors that are making the IOM famous and success story in recent times. Cameroon stands ready to make her modest contribution to the objectives of this organisation and is very enthusiastic to become a full member, if so decided.

Thank you Mr. President.