



KENYA

Mr. Chairman,

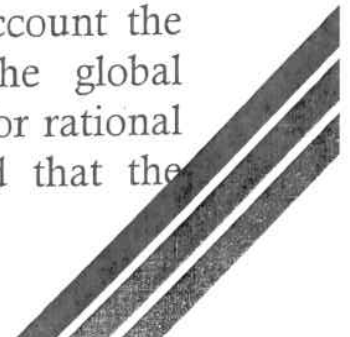
The Kenya delegation wishes to congratulate you and members of the Bureau for your election to preside over the IOM Council. We also commend the Ambassador of Venezuela for the effective and efficient leadership during his Chairmanship.

Kenya associates itself fully with the statement made on Monday by the distinguished Ambassador of Sudan on behalf of the African Group.

We wish to add our voice to the clear and precise recommendations by the Group by highlighting a few salient points of pertinent interest to us.

Kenya is proud to have been the first African country to have joined IOM more than a quarter a century ago. We did so in the realization that IOM had an important role to play on issues of migration, and that Kenya was strategically located to support the international community in the movement of people in our part of the world, a role we are honoured to continue playing to this day. Those reasons are even more valid and pressing today than they were twenty-five years ago when we offered to host the then Africa Regional Office. We have enjoyed an excellent relationship with IOM ever since.

We lend our full support to the wider objectives of the Organization, under the dynamic leadership of the Director-General, Ambassador Swing and the Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Laura Thompson and their commendable efforts to give the organization renewed impetus, taking into account the new challenges, including those associated with the global economic crisis and climate change vis-à-vis the need for rational utilization of limited resources. We are encouraged that the



organization is giving due attention to the issue of human rights of migrant workers, their health and other associated issues.

With regard to the structure review, while we find the rationale of the proposals to be sound and persuasive, the conclusions are not as convincing. One could use the same reasoning to reach different conclusions.

East Africa and the Horn of Africa still remain the source of the second largest migration flows in the continent, after West Africa. The horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region remain the hot spot for forced migration in the African continent. Indeed the Nairobi office has been instrumental in facilitating Third Country resettlement, voluntary repatriation and emergency operations for the Sub-Saharan Africa. There is no justification whatsoever for the relocation of the Regional Office – moving it further away from the centre of operations.

It is for these reasons that we lend our full support to the proposal by the African Group that more consultations are needed with member states before a final decision can be taken on the issue of Regional Offices. We hope that the amendment proposed by the African Group on your draft proposal in this regard will receive the full support and endorsement of the members of the Council.

It is our conviction that through these consultations, a suitable and judicious decision will be reached that would satisfy the needs and desires of the countries of the region while fulfilling the shared objectives of the organization – in terms of efficiency and effectiveness.

Reform, we should be reminded, is a process not an event, as Kofi Annan stated more than a decade ago.

Kenya is ready to support you in your reform efforts.

Thank you.