



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

STATEMENT

BY

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**DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**AT THE HIGH LEVEL GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 98TH
SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)**

GENEVA, 23 -26 NOVEMBER 2009

Check against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Director General,

Madam Deputy Director General,

Honourable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Ambassador Kitajima, for being elected as Chairman of the Ninety-Eight Session of the IOM Council. Tanzania enjoys cordial and friendly relations with Japan. We shall give you full cooperation in your endeavours as Chairman. Your Bureau also deserves our warmest congratulations. We also thank outgoing Chairman, H.E. the Ambassador of Venezuela.

Mr. Chairman,

As it is the first time I am addressing this august Council, let me salute the Director General, H.E. Ambassador William Lacy Swing for the commendable job and leadership for the past year. I also congratulate Madam Laura Thompson for assuming her new responsibilities as a new Deputy Director General. I also welcome the new members who have

joined the Organization. This is a clear testimony that the importance and relevance of the Organization is gaining ground.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement made this morning by the distinguished Representative of Sudan, on behalf of the African Group.

On behalf of the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, I wish to express our **full support to the new IOM leadership** and intend to work together in facing the many challenges on migration. I also commend the Secretariat for excellent preparations for this Council meeting. We are happy to see that documents for this meeting were made available in good time.

I also welcome the report by the Director General which is very comprehensive and enlightening.

Mr. Chairman,

As the report of the Director General is pointing out, this Council is taking place when the world is grappling with the adverse effects of the **global economic downturn and financial crisis** which have direct impact on the

lives of migrants. From unemployment, job losses, decreased remittances, stereotype/discrimination scaling back of regular migration options and many others pose serious challenges. These challenges call for concerted efforts.

This is extremely important because **migration is a reality of life**. People migrate for various reasons. Poverty, conflict, civil wars, and political instability are but a few among many; while search for better opportunities and greener pastures have driven many people to migrate to is setting up Europe and North America.

This is a big challenge and it is gratifying to note that the Director General is setting up an interactive session of the Council which I believe will strive to provide some answers to these boggling questions.

Mr. Director General, I commend you for this initiative. Let us use this opportunity to search for lasting solutions.

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to state that Tanzania continues to enjoy excellent working relationship with the IOM. It is a relationship which we value and cherish. We wish to put on record our appreciation to the leadership of IOM for taking a historic decision of formally establishing the African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) which is located within the premises of the

Tanzania Regional Immigration Training Academy (TRITA) in Moshi, Northern Tanzania.

With the signing of the cooperation agreement on the establishment of the centre in October this year, the Centre has become fully operational. We have and continue to invite all African countries to take full advantage of this capacity building facility in the area of migration management. May I also take this opportunity to urge development partners to collaborate with the IOM in sustaining the objectives of this Centre. As migration issues are cross-cutting we hope that the Centre will strive those objectives for which it has been set up.

It is worthy noting that the co-existence of the ACBC with TRITA creates a symbiotic relationship that has an enriching and enhancing effect. For, while TRITA for the time being focuses more on East and Central African countries, ACBC aims to engaging the whole of the African continent in building capacity with a view to having harmonious, uniform and consistent migration practices.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at this juncture to take this opportunity to also thank the IOM for helping my government in repatriating 802 victims of human trafficking to their countries of origin. Indeed, owing to the big number of the victims it was an enormous task on the part of my government. It is also comforting that the IOM has agreed to look into another intervention for the remaining