

**GHANA'S STATEMENT FOR THE 99TH SESSION
OF THE IOM COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairman,

Ghana is delighted to see you in the chair and joins previous Speakers in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. We are also grateful to Ambassador Kitajima of Japan and the outgoing bureau for ably steering our activities over the past year.

We thank the Director General, Ambassador Lacy Swing, for his skilled leadership of this organisation. Under his leadership, we have witnessed the successful execution of the organisation's mandate even with dwindling funds and express the hope that the ongoing reforms involving staff rotation, the structure and budget review will achieve the designed goal of strengthening the capacity of IOM to consolidate its growth and expansion while positioning it for the future. We also recognize the constraints placed on management by the current "zero nominal growth" approach to the budget, and look forward to a successful outcome of both the discussions on the budget review and the implementation of the structure review. Our expectation is that the new organisational structure which aims at streamlining structures through the reallocation of resources will succeed in enhancing effectiveness and service delivery in response to the growing needs of member States.

We commend IOM for its contribution, during the year, to activities aimed at heightening awareness of gender and migration issues on the international agenda, for efforts towards the protection and empowerment of women migrant workers, for informing policy makers on the protection of human rights throughout the labour migration cycle and for its untiring efforts to highlight the positive contribution of migrants to host communities. We agree with the Director-General's report that unilateral approaches to migration management do not produce an adequate response to today's challenges and opportunities in the field of migration, and that there is a clear need to address migration management at the regional and international levels also. We believe that concerted action by all stakeholders in accordance with the 12-point Strategy should enable the administration to provide us with the necessary expertise to assist Member States in their migration management initiatives.

In the course of the year, many of our delegations were able to benefit from the exchange of views during the two workshops that took place within the context of the international dialogue on migration. The workshops are contributing to national efforts to strengthen capacity to implement orderly migration policies. We encourage the organisation to strengthen its role as the leading global organisation for migration management and enhance its response capacity. While appreciating the IOM's support to national development through the return and reintegration of skilled nationals, we wish to encourage the organisation to strengthen the links between migration and development, considering that migration is now an important factor in the policy development of many Governments.

Mr. Chairman,

The 1035 Facility has been a very helpful tool for the provision of quick and flexible responses to important migration challenges faced by developing Member States and Member States with economy in transition. The joint government-IOM initiatives funded by this Facility have addressed needs in various areas of migration governance. In Ghana, a 3-year project funded by the Facility has provided support to the Govt's efforts to better integrate migration into its development planning framework. A national Migration Unit has now been established to coordinate the initiatives taken by all Govt. agencies whose activities affect or are affected by migration. This Unit will provide migration policy direction, while the findings of a sectoral study on migration policies and legislation in Ghana are also expected to inform the direction of the national migration policy development process. Ghana looks forward to the implementation of the appropriate follow up activities in order to build on the achievements of this initiative.

We would also like to applaud the administration for the expansion in the 1035 funding mechanism to include a second line of funding. We are happy that this second credit line will assist in strengthening the capacity of developing countries, through the appropriate programmes. In this regard, we wish to appeal for a reasonable portion of the Discretionary Income to be maintained to support programmes for developing countries which are seeking solutions to the challenge of developing new legislation, policies, procedures, and administrative structures at the national level, while engaging in cooperative endeavours at the bilateral or regional level. We would like the IOM to continue to support our capacity building efforts as we address the many-faceted realities of international migration in a globalizing world.

Finally, Mr Chairman, it is our pleasure to warmly welcome Botswana, Lesotho, Central African Republic, Swaziland and Timor Leste as Members, and the three NGOs as Observers, respectively, of this organisation. The arrival of so many new Members and Observers attests to the good work IOM is doing. We commend the administration for this work and look forward to cooperating with the new countries and organisations in our future work.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.