

**STATEMENT BY KENYA AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE IOM  
COUNCIL : 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

**Chairperson,**

**The Director-General of the IOM**

**Excellencies**

**Distinguished Delegates**

My delegation wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate the chairman and members of the Bureau on their election. I assure you of Kenya's support.

Kenya aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group.

**Chairperson,**

Kenya welcomes the Director General's Report to the Council. We believe it provides a useful basis for our discussions during this session. It is gratifying to note that the report mentions the recently concluded Fourth Global Forum for Migration and Development held in Mexico early in the month, at which some key issues of the DG's report hinge on.

Kenya congratulates Mexico for the excellent arrangements which, without doubt, contributed in no small way to the very successful outcome. We attach great importance to the Global Forum. However, we believe it may be necessary to reevaluate the challenges it faces in terms of its sustainability which will determine its long-term future

**Chairperson,**

The report provides an excellent analogy of the state of migration amid fast changing demographic trends. This is at a time the labour market is characterized by high

unemployment rates amongst migrants as a result of the global economic and financial crisis. This scenario definitely creates large pockets of resentment by nationals of some host countries, hence the rise in ant-migrant public sentiment. We share this concern with the D.G. This is a challenge the I.O.M and member states must collectively address. The contribution of migrants to the economies of host countries is invaluable. This should be brought to the attention of the public in those countries through vigorous campaigns. In this regard, capacity building of relevant agencies of national governments is imperative.

The report is an excellent basis upon which we need to reflect on the challenges and effects of global migration and how to formulate an even better strategy on the march forward, and in particular, how to build migration management capacities for change as outlined at paragraph 14. The World Migration Report 2010 could also not have come out at a better moment than now, since it provides useful insights that are helpful in redesigning our strategies.

**Chairperson,**

Kenya welcomes Botswana, Swaziland, the Central African Republic, Lesotho, and Timor – Leste to the membership of IOM. This growth certainly boosts the organisations' and regions' strength. It also enhances our engagement as a region, in matters and concerns of migration management with the rest of the globe.

Collaborative partnership is an avenue for shared thoughts, experiences and agreed action and is therefore important in seeking for solutions in managing migration. We encourage and urge the DG to continuously seek to deepen and strengthen partnerships with member states, the wider UN and other relevant organisations in order to look for solutions on migration flows and to help improve on handling of the numerous challenges facing humanity, particularly conflict, disease and poverty.

We laud the DG and the Deputy DG Amb Laura Thompson in their initiatives within the regions in an effort to further deepen this partnership.

**Chairperson,**

Kenya recognises the efforts by the office to maintain core functions of the organisation amid tight budgetary constraints. We also appreciate budgetary constraints national governments are faced with, particularly after the global economic and financial crisis. We however believe that this situation is not permanent. This notwithstanding migratory flow challenges are constantly on the rise, hence the need for more resources for their management. To this end we urge development partners not to relent in their effort in supporting this noble cause.

We echo the distinguished spokespersons' commendation for the Deputy Director-General's efforts on the briefings and the achievements already realised in the implementation of the first phase of the structure review at the Head Office.

Kenya wishes to add her voice to the clear emphasis by the group on the need for more active engagement and deeper consultations with concerned member states with migration related specificities, as envisaged in the IOM Resolution No. 1186 of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

Finally reiterate its commitment to working with IOM and with other relevant stakeholders and will strive to ensure that the objectives for which the organisation stands for are realised.

Thank you