



KENYA

STATEMENT

BY

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GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

Mr. Chairman,

May I at the outset congratulate you on your election as chair of this Session of the Council. My delegation is confident you will ably steer our deliberations to a fruitful conclusion. I would also like to congratulate members of the Bureau. I assure you of my delegation's support and cooperation.

Kenya associates herself with the statement by the distinguished delegate of Algeria on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the Director General's report on his stewardship of our organization. It is comprehensive and insightful. It highlights the various activities of the organization against a background of recent developments in migration, the achievements and challenges; and sets out a vision for the next five years.

Despite the positive steps, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are meeting at a time of great upheaval. There are many global challenges and competing interests on the international agenda. These include the ongoing economic recession and financial crises in some regions of the world, high levels of unemployment especially among our youth and unprecedented emergencies and disasters. Inevitably, they impact on the IOM's ability to fulfill its mandate.

We therefore must ensure migration remains high on our global agenda and the discourse reflects our concerns and needs.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation appreciates the important work being carried out by the Director General and his dedicated staff.

The initiatives undertaken to streamline the operations of the organization under the three management priorities: **proprietorship, partnerships and professionalism** are commendable. We believe they will contribute significantly to making the IOM more efficient, effective and able to serve Member States better.

We recognize that although the implementation of some of the measures, for instance, in administration and human resources are still in progress, we are nevertheless convinced they will add value to the organization.

With regard to the structural reform of the IOM which has been underway for some time, Kenya welcomes the adoption by the Council of the Programme and Budget for 2013 and the designation of Nairobi as a Regional Office.

Mr. Chairman,

It is gratifying to note the increase in IOM membership from 125 to 150 Member States. It is not only a testimony of the importance attached to the work of the organization but also a very clear ~~indication that issues of migration are by nature universal.~~ Equally important, is the consolidation of partnerships between the IOM and other UN agencies, other international and non-governmental organizations. Kenya highly values the IOM's support of regional consultative processes.

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of the declining core budget highlighted in the Director General's report is, I believe, a matter of concern to all of us. This is particularly so in view of the multiple challenges the organization faces coupled with the change in the nature of its work and the growing demands made by Member States for its services.

Needless to state, the Working Group on Budget Reform is playing an invaluable role rationalizing the financial functioning of the organization. However, considering the policy of zero nominal growth is still in place, the question of the budget gap will remain unresolved.

Kenya believes the proposal made by the Director General regarding the need to explore other options that would diversify the funding base and prioritization of fundraising deserve consideration. It is our hope that the Council will look into the various options.

My delegation is pleased to learn that efforts have been launched to broaden the donor base for the Development Fund and to explore fundraising possibilities beyond Member States. The Fund has been instrumental in addressing gaps and enhancing government capacities to manage migration challenges. Kenya thanks the Government of Australia for providing management support for the Development Fund.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya appreciates the proactive approach taken by the IOM to ensure that the organization remains at the centre stage of the evolving discussions on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015. Considering that Geneva is the lead center on migration it is important to create synergies with New York especially the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly which influences the development debate. We feel strongly that quite often there is a disconnect. Our colleagues in New York seem to have a very different perspective on migration. It is not consistent with our views here in Geneva.

One way we could assist as Member States is through advocacy in our respective capitals by ensuring important political statements incorporate a component on the dialogue on migration.

I am convinced this approach would give impetus to our efforts to secure a place for migration in the post – 2015 MDGs Development Agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya welcomes the proposal to convene a Second High-Level Dialogue on Migration in September, 2013 in New York. While we do appreciate the value of securing high-level political support on matters of migration, given the increasing anti-migrant sentiment which has been exacerbated by various global challenges chiefly - the global economic and financial crisis, and growing unemployment. What we really need is a World Summit to set the direction. We believe it would contribute immensely to creating awareness of the contribution of migrants in society and their positive value to economic and social development.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, as we embark on the road to 2018, we look forward to ~~increased and sustained interaction, dynamism and cooperation, and~~ borrowing the Director General's words, 'in clearing the stumbling stones that lie in our path.'

My delegation urges IOM to do whatever it can, within its means to identify more 'stepping stones that we can use to move forward together.'

Kenya reaffirms its commitment to continue working with IOM, Member States and other stakeholders towards attaining our collective objective and ensuring our organization remains relevant.

Thank you for your attention.