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## **STATEMENT BY THE AFRICAN FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (AFFORD) TO THE 105<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL FOR OBSERVER STATUS**

**Remarks by Mr Onyekachi Wambu  
Director of African Foundation for Development (AFFORD)**

**Conference Room XVII at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, 25 November 2014**

Chairperson of the Council  
Ministers  
Representatives of Member States  
Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to refer to the productive contacts established between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD). IOM's programmes and activities in the field of migration and development are of great interest and relevance to AFFORD and welcome the invitation to apply for observer status.

We have collaborated since the 2006 UN High-level Dialogue and more intensely in 2013 as part of the HLD and post 2015 processes. Through the IOM country office in the United Kingdom (UK), we have undertaken engagement, enablement and empowerment activities for African diaspora organisations through capacity building and policy and advocacy training. Most recently we have collaborated on the mapping of Sierra Leonean and Lesotho diaspora health care workers in the UK. As well as in the training of Foreign Ministry staff of Ethiopia and Ghana.

AFFORD desires to continue to take part in the work of IOM by obtaining observer status.

AFFORD is a pioneering diaspora-development organisation set up in the UK in 1994 with the mission to “expand and enhance the contribution that Africans in the diaspora make to Africa’s development”.

As the issue of mobility moves up the international agenda, we are keen to deepen present and future collaboration in the field of migration, diaspora and development, specifically on: post 2015; enterprise and employment; remittances and investment; engagement and capacity building; research, policy and advocacy.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is our belief that both our organizations will benefit from a further strengthening of this already close and cordial relationship.

I thank you all.

**Onyekachi Wambu, Geneva, 25 November 2014**

***(357 Words)***