



**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Jean Marie EHOZOU
Permanent Observer of the African Union in Geneva**

**105th Session of the IOM Council
25 to 28 November 2014
Geneva, (Switzerland)**

ARISE!

1 AFRICA 2063
PROSPERITY & PEACE

Chairperson,

On behalf of the AUC, allow me to begin by congratulating you and the Bureau on your election. We are assured that your experience and knowledge will steer the work of the Council in a productive manner. We also like to congratulate the newest member and observers on their admission to the IOM.

Chairperson

The AUC aligns itself to the statement delivered by Botswana on behalf of the African Group and would also like to contribute to the debate with a few remarks.

We thank the Director General for his Report and would particularly like to pay tribute to the IOM's rapid response and humanitarian assistance in the level three crises over the last year. We also appreciate IOM's contribution to the international response to the Ebola outbreak, declared a public health emergency of international concern by the WHO. At the continental level the African Union Support to the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa, ASEOWA; established following the decision of the AU Peace and Security Council; has mobilized AU member States, Regional Economic Communities, private sector and African civil society and as well ordinary Africans to support the response efforts, save lives and end the epidemic. We pay tribute to those who have lost their lives and to the courageous volunteers working on the ground.

Chairperson,

As iterated by many before, the protection of the human rights of migrants is a critical element in the development of migration management policies. As underscored in the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and the African Common Position on Migration and Development, the fight against irregular migration must be waged within the context of strict observance of human rights and human dignity, of regional and international cooperation and shared responsibility among the countries of origin, transit and destination. This sentiment has been illustrated most recently by the convening of the AU Regional Conference to address human trafficking and smuggling in the horn of Africa held in Khartoum in October 2014, organized in collaboration with the Government of Sudan, the IOM and UNHCR. The

ARISE!

1 AFRICA 2063
PROSPERITY & PEACE

Khartoum Declaration on the AU-Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants, inter alia, emphasizes the importance of political will, dialogue and cooperation at regional and international levels on migration management and in strengthening the capacities of Member States to prevent and combat human trafficking and smuggling.

The AU is committed to addressing exploitation through operationalizing the *Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking In Human Beings, Especially Women and Children* at the level of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and with the support of partners such as the European Union.

Chairperson,

We also thank the IOM for its proactive engagement with the AU on issues of migration and mobility within the context of the relevant AU decisions and policy frameworks. The recent Preparatory experts meeting for a Roundtable on intra-regional consultations on migration and mobility is reflective of this as it aims to support the transformational AU Agenda 2063 by capitalizing on the role of intra-regional mobility for regional economic integration and sustainable inclusive growth and development of the continent. In this regard, we also express our gratitude to the Swiss government for its support to this joint initiative.

Finally Chairperson,

There is need for strengthening, cooperation and partnership in managing migration while harnessing its development potential for positive change in sending and receiving countries and especially in the lives of migrants, wherever in the world they may choose to live and work.

I thank you