

**Statement by the Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia at the
105th Session of the International Organization for Migration**

Mr. Chairperson,

We join delegations who spoke before us in congratulating you the Chair, the Vice chairs and the rapporteur on your election. We also congratulate the new members in their admission to IOM.

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Botswana on behalf of the African Group.

We thank the Director General for the brief report.

Ethiopia welcomes the activities by IOM to assist the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia in preventing trafficking in persons and protecting its victims, particularly children, improve stakeholder coordination mechanisms and strengthen the national legislative framework and the response of the criminal justice system to trafficking in persons. Further strengthening of such activities would contribute to the Government's efforts to fight trafficking in persons.

Ethiopia commends IOM for the work done in ensuring the safe and dignified repatriation of migrants to their countries of origin. We also commend IOM's ongoing humanitarian activities in assisting the Ebola affected countries.

Ethiopia is the first largest refugee hosting country in Africa. Some of these refugees engage in a secondary dangerous movements and are more often targets of trafficking and smuggling networks. Ethiopia commends the humanitarian activities of IOM to assist refugees that are engaged in a dangerous secondary movement by land and at sea and migrants caught in crises. This should further be strengthened in collaboration with the relevant UN agencies such as UNHCR and other humanitarian actors.

Mr. Chairperson,

While addressing the root causes for migration remains central, the protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants and their families and ensuring their benefit from their migration is also of utmost important. The protection of the human rights of migrants in their transit and destination countries remains a challenge. They are subject to multiple forms of discrimination, violation of their human rights, including their labour rights. Migrants are disproportionately affected by various forms of discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia and negative misperception irrespective of their status in the destination country.

The multifaceted problems faced by migrants in their transit and destination countries as well as the issues related with the root causes for migration require sustainable solutions.

In the coming two years leading towards the 65th anniversary of IOM, it is important to further strengthen the activities of the Organization to protect the human rights of migrants, irrespective of their status. IOM should also take initiatives to ensure the integration of migrants and change the negative perception on migration in the destination countries. This would require the Organization and the Director General to work in close

collaboration with destination countries, create focused forums for dialogue and design and implement policy frameworks.

Mr. Chairperson,

The root causes for migration such as poverty and unemployment would require IOM to design and implement tailored projects that would contribute to the economic and social development of the specific communities that are affected by trafficking in persons and to address the problems of such communities that are engaging in a dangerous movements. IOM may collaborate with other development actors in the design, resource mobilization and implementation of such projects.

We have noted from the report on Programme and Budget for 2015 C/105/9 under paragraph 18 and the report by the Director General that IOM is currently drafting its humanitarian policy, detailing its approach to durable solutions. It is commendable that IOM has taken the initiative to draft a policy framework to address the pressing humanitarian issues and negative perceptions migrants are faced with in countries of transit and destination as well as the root causes for migration. It is advisable for IOM to create a modality for member States to comment on such policy framework as States would have a crucial role in its implementation.

Mr. Chairperson,

The featuring of migration in the open working group proposal for sustainable development goals is a step in the right direction, though much more needs to be done from IOM and member States in ensuring that it will be included in the final post 2015 sustainable development goals and the linkage between migration and development is well established with specific targets and interventions.

Migrants are usually neglected in a humanitarian crises or assistances and in a hazardous events and efforts to reduce or manage disaster risk. The integration of migrants, irrespective of their status as one of the vulnerable groups in the post 2015 framework to reduce disaster risk would enable the international community and States to ensure that efforts to reduce the effects of disaster and prevent its creation would be inclusive. Furthermore, the inclusion of migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants caught in crises in the process leading towards the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 is important. The role of migrants in support of humanitarian action as indicated in the co-chair's summary of the World Humanitarian Summit Eastern and Southern African Regional Consultation could further be elaborated and expanded to include the protection of migrants in a humanitarian assistance in the global consultation before the Summit. The contribution of IOM to these processes needs to be strengthened.

Mr. Chairperson,

We commend IOM for initiatives that are aimed at ensuring the benefits of migrants and their families, such as initiatives to reduce the cost of migration and remittances. Such initiatives should be accompanied by specific projects that are implemented in different countries. Initiatives like the IOM-UPU initiative to reduce the cost of remittance may also be replicated in other countries with existing postal infrastructures that can serve this purpose.

I thank you.