



## KENYA

### **STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. JOHN O. KAKONGE, AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE (KENYA) AT THE 105<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) COUNCIL MEETING: 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2014**

Mr. President,  
Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates

1. At the very outset, the Kenya delegation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by Botswana on behalf of the African Group. Kenya congratulates H.E. Ambassador Edicco the Permanent Representative of Ghana for his election as the President of the Council together with his two Vice Presidents and the Rapporteur. I assure them of my country's support during their term.
2. We also wish to congratulate Ambassador Laura Thompson for her re-election as the Deputy Director General for a second term. I look forward to our continued cooperation and collaboration for the betterment of the migrants.

**Mr. President,**

3. I commend the Director General and his staff who sometimes work in extremely challenging environment, but nevertheless continue to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in crisis and the displaced populations. This year in particular was challenging as several level three (3) Emergencies were declared.
4. In this regard, we also extend our appreciation to the Staff Security Unit Office, which came in support of our National Security Forces during the terrorist hostage siege at the Westgate shopping Mall in which a number of their staff were affected.

**Mr. President,**

5. We thank the Director General for his comprehensive and incisive report.
6. Current migration account portrays a negative picture. The world is facing increasing anti-immigration sentiments with an enlarged tendency of xenophobia

towards immigrants. The international community must therefore work together to protect vulnerable migrants. We must promote tolerance; cohesion and integration to enable migrants contribute to development in both the sending and receiving countries.

**Mr. President,**

7. Kenya takes cognizance of the importance of the migration, environment and climate change nexus which has emerged as a policy expansion agenda within national, regional and international agendas. We therefore thank IOM and its partners for Kenya's inclusion in the "Migration, Environment and Climate Change - Evidence for Policy" (MECLEP) Project that aims to contribute to the global knowledge base on the relationship between migration and environmental change, including climate change. This innovative research will go a long way in assisting the country formulate policy options on how migration can benefit adaptation strategies to environmental and climate change.

**Mr. President,**

8. Remittances have a huge development potential for the migrants, their families and their countries of origin. Efforts by IOM to lower the cost of remittances are commendable. Kenya is proud to host the African Remittance Institute, which among other things, will contribute to harnessing migrants remittance for social and economic development within the African continent.
9. Through research, the Institute will be able to develop ways of making remittance transfer within Africa more affordable, secure, faster and easier. It will also generate data on African migration and remittances flow which has been lacking and therefore assist governments in policy decisions. Kenya therefore commends the IOM for the support it is extending to the government of Kenya in formally establishing the Institute.

**Mr. President,**

10. We particularly welcome the reforms and the initiatives that are currently being undertaken, to enhance the effectiveness of the organization and strengthen its capacity to deliver.

In conclusion, Kenya joins other delegations in welcoming the new observer members and we assure you of Kenya's commitment to the IOM.

**I thank you**