



## **STATEMENT**

by the

**Deputy Minister of Home Affairs  
of the  
Kingdom of Lesotho  
Honourable Malebitso Ralebitso**

at the

**105<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the  
International Organisation for Migration**

**25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2015  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**Mr. President,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Mr. President,**

On behalf of the Government and People of Lesotho, I extend our most sincere congratulations to you on your election to the Presidency of the 105<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council and wish you every success in the discharge of your duties. The Lesotho delegation has confidence in your personal, diplomatic and leadership qualities to guide us through the session and assure you of our support and cooperation at all times.

Let me also pay a well-deserved tribute and express our thanks and gratitude to your predecessor. We thank him in particular for his statesmanship, sterling guidance and effective organization during the last Council's session. We also remain deeply indebted to His Excellency, Ambassador Swing for his continued dynamic leadership and commitment to our Organization and for his relentless efforts at achieving the Organization's goals.

The Lesotho delegation aligns itself with that statement delivered by Botswana on behalf the African Group.

**Mr. President,**

The Lesotho delegation welcomes with appreciation the report of Director-General which clearly outlines the activities of the Organisation for the year 2014. My delegation has noted the report with keen interest and welcomes the key priorities that IOM has set for itself to effectively harmonise the migration policies with international migration instruments and ensure the full implementation thereof. The Lesotho delegation urges the IOM to maintain course and preferably accelerate the momentum given the enormous challenges facing humanity on the migration front, and further seize opportunities that enable them to address pertinent emerging situations. There is so much to be done, yet there is limited capacity, resources and time to tackle the challenges around us.

We further note with gratification the measures that IOM has taken to ensure protection and assistance to migrants as clearly demonstrated by the adoption of a new Framework for Migration Governance. That is highly commendable.

The Government of Lesotho remains keenly aware that migration challenges and management require concerted efforts from the international community. Therefore, partnerships at the international, regional and national levels should be established to address the problems that migrants continue to face.

Regarding the integrated and coordinated implementation of the major United Nations conferences and summits, my delegation values the review meetings

because they offer us the opportunity to evaluate our performance and forge a way forward. They also rekindle our political commitment to achieving global developmental goals. We therefore feel that more dialogue process should continue in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with a stronger emphasis on the evaluation of achievements and constraints.

**Mr. President,**

The protection of the rights of migrants remains a priority for Lesotho. Today the rights of migrants are the legitimate concern of all humanity. If, as the world agreed in Vienna in 1993 “the promotion and protection of human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community” this calls for a more pragmatic approach in identifying pertinent situations requiring protection of rights of the migrants.

**Mr. President,**

Among the promising developments in dealing with the issue of migration, robust measures have been taken in Lesotho to develop a Framework for managing Migration data, and with the assistance of IOM Lesotho managed to draft the National Migration and Development Policy. My delegation is particularly pleased to report that the initial success in mainstreaming migration into national development plans is been concluded. The government is also working on the development of the strategic Framework and Action Plan on trafficking in persons as well as data collection system on

trafficking. Since migration is a cross-cutting issue, the government has adopted a multi-sectoral approach through the establishment of the National Consultative Committee on Migration that includes NGO's and the Government to make an input into the Lesotho National Migration and Development Policy , which will elaborate how each of our policy measures will be carried out in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

In conclusion, **Mr. President**, Lesotho applauds all countries for their meaningful contribution for the attainment of durable solutions. We also thank IOM for its dedication and commitment to the work even in very challenging and difficult environments.

May I take this opportunity to reiterate my delegation's confidence in you and your Co-Chairs to convey this event to its expected outcome.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**