

Statement

By

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the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the UN Office at Geneva and other
International Organizations in Switzerland

At

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Thank you Mr. President,

I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President and members of the Bureau upon your elections to preside over the 100th Session of the Council of the International Organisation for Migration.

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, I would like to express appreciation to all Member States of the International Organisation for Migration for the admission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the membership of the Organisation. I would also like to congratulate other new member states who have joined IOM at the commemoration of its 60th Anniversary.

Ethiopia has enjoyed a successful relationship with IOM. It has closely followed the work of the organization as observer and has drawn important lessons from its work. It has successfully cooperated with IOM on different issues under the auspices of the bilateral hosting Agreement.

I would like to take this opportunity to express deep appreciation for the important assistance and support IOM extended to Ethiopia, in particular in the safe, orderly and humane return of Ethiopian nationals.

Mr President,

The Government of Ethiopia is fully committed to actively contribute to purposes and functions of the Organization as the leading international agency with the mandate solely dedicated to migration. IOM rightly provides the multilateral platform for migration dialogue and the causes, consequences for and interactions with other global issues such as Climate Change, Environment, and Development.

As a member of IOM, Ethiopia will give priority focus on improving the welfare of migrants, full recognition of their plight and on ensuring better respect for their rights around the world, on nurturing better understanding of the positive roles of migration for host societies and to the development of countries of origin, on capacity building of national and regional institutions with responsibilities on migration, on the need to enhancing international cooperation on irregular migration and on the fight against human trafficking and smuggling. Ethiopia will also continue its active participation in regional migration management initiatives, including in the IGAD framework on interregional dialogue on irregular migration and human trafficking.

The Government of Ethiopia is determined to maintain the current high level and equitable economic growth and attain MDGs by 2015 under the Growth and Transformation Plan. Ethiopia is further enhancing the national framework for Ethiopian diaspora to enhance their participation in the development of the country and the success of the Five-Year Plan. Ethiopia will work closely with IOM on the engagement of Ethiopian diaspora on the socio-economic development of the country.

Ethiopia is joining IOM at a time the organization commemorates its 60th years of dedicated work on migration. Migration is increasingly receiving global focus as one key political and economic agenda item for both developed and developing countries. IOM's 60 years of experience is valuable to nurture fact and evidence based understanding of the positive contributions of migration to the development of communities and proactive leading role in the debate context of the 2013 United Nations High-Level Dialogue. IOM's experience based contribution in global efforts in the formulation of migration and development policies and in recommending innovative ways of addressing age-old and new migration related challenges remain critical.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Ethiopia's commitment to seeking effective and durable solutions to global migration challenges and enhance its cooperation with IOM to strengthen domestic and regional migration management systems.

I thank you.