

Mr.Chairperson

My delegation endorses the statement made by Zambia on behalf of the African Group.

The Ethiopian delegation welcomes the Report of the Director General. It traces the origins of the Organization, the progress it has made over the years, its current state of affairs, and its outlook. We would like to thank him for his vision and for the accessible and informative report.

Our comments will focus on Ethiopia's policy towards migration as a receiving State, and Ethiopia's perspective on the challenges and opportunities of migration as a country of origin.

Ethiopia maintains an open door policy towards people seeking assistance and refugee from violence, and natural disasters. It hosts close to three hundred thousand refugees mainly from neighbouring countries. Ethiopia remains committed to this policy. Ethiopia closely collaborates with the relevant agencies in providing assistance to those in need and in the effort to find durable solutions.

Secondly, challenges from migration are either of border control or the management of irregular migration or the protection of those who find themselves in difficult situations. Border control issues require further cooperation with different countries and capacity building measures to local authorities. The management of irregular migration requires national measures to be supported by regional and international solutions.

Ensuring respect for the rights of migrants in difficult situations require care, understanding and deeper commitment for human rights, irrespective of the status of the individual. Migrants, as victims of abuse and mistreatment, are often blamed for their plight. They are denied access to services or mechanisms of complaint or redress of host countries. It is critical that IOM intensify its advocacy for better protection of migrants around the world, with particular emphasis for the plight of women migrants. We applaud the passionate word of the Director General in favour of respect for the human rights of immigrants. It is also critical that all affected countries use the services of IOM to hold dialogue to find durable solutions. IOM's experience in the repatriation or return of nationals is also an indispensable avenue for countries to guarantee the safe and humane return of nationals to countries of origin, whenever that durable solution is most appropriately available.

Mr. Chairperson,

Like many developing countries, Ethiopia is increasingly engaging nationals abroad in the development of the country. This engagement allows the Diaspora to directly contribute to the progress the country is registering in maintaining high levels of growth while advancing their interest. The role of the Diaspora in remittances, technology transfer, investment, building consensus on development imperatives and the democratization processes in the country has been fully recognized.

The Ethiopian Government has taken a number of important measures to facilitate a more conducive environment to the involvement of Diaspora in the socio-economic development of the country. Adoption of directives to facilitate return investment for the Diaspora ,strengthening the capacities of government institutions to properly respond to the needs of the Diaspora, the establishment of departments dedicated to facilitate Diaspora engagement, organization of

regular official visits to consult with Ethiopian Diaspora living abroad, are among the main measures taken by the Government. As a long term solution a new comprehensive draft policy on the engagement of the Diaspora is now being finalized with discussions with members of the Diaspora before adoption by the Government.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, the Government of Ethiopia is confident that IOM will continue to serve as the platform for sustained dialogue to identify ways of enhancing benefits of migration for the development of our countries, while at the same time providing durable solutions for the challenges of migrations through capacity building, policy making and sharing of experiences.

I thank you