

**Statement by Ghana at the 100th session of the IOM Council to
Commemorate the 60th anniversary of IOM, Geneva,
5-7 December, 2011**

Mr. Chairman,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate the Director-General, his predecessors, the administration and indeed all IOM Staff members who have contributed to the success of the organization these last sixty years. We recognize the initial roots of IOM as an operational logistics agency, and the important phases it has gone through in broadening its scope, over the years, to become the leading international agency working with governments and civil society to advance the understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Not unsurprisingly, therefore, IOM has now become the point of reference in the intense global debate on the implications of migration in the 21st century, making it even more relevant today as it leads the way in the pursuit of the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

Within this context, and considering the complex and dynamic nature of contemporary migration, the need for close cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, and Ghana's aspiration to harness the opportunities of migration, my Government has been working with IOM to meet the growing operational challenges of migration management.

In close cooperation with IOM, the Government is seeking to achieve goals in the priority areas involving the formulation of a national Migration and Development policy, which is expected to be completed by mid-2012, capacity building to combat human trafficking, information outreach on the risks and realities of irregular migration, the engagement of the Ghanaian diaspora in national development, and technical support for border management.

We wish to register our gratitude to IOM for its active involvement in Ghana since 1987 and its contribution to addressing the migration challenges faced by the country. We would also like to place on record the invaluable support rendered to Ghana for the evacuation of over 12,000 of our nationals from Libya during the events of the "Arab Spring", as well as

for its assistance to more than 13,000 migrants who fled the Ivory Coast crisis.

As a significant out-migration country, Ghana is also appreciative of the efforts of IOM to strengthen its capacity to ensure rapid response and intervention during emergencies. It is in this context that we applaud the recent Council decision on the establishment of a migration emergency funding mechanism to reinforce IOM's operational and emergency response capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

As we look into the future, we would like to encourage the Director-General in the pursuit of his vision for the organization, as he continues to engage all stakeholders in the three priority areas of ensuring Member States ownership, partnership and professionalism of the staff. We congratulate the organization on the smooth implementation of the recent reforms and express the hope that the outcome of the budget reform will contribute to addressing the difficult financial situation of the Organisation. We also look forward to IOM support for State-led regional consultative processes to deepen our collective capacity to realize the positive potential of migration.

In closing, we wish to align ourselves with the African Group statement delivered by Zambia and welcome all new members to the organization. This large number of new members is a testimony to the bold vision and hard work of the administration, and we would like to pledge our continued cooperation and unwavering support for the important work of the organization.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.