

STATEMENT BY HON. AMBASSADOR KHAMIS S. KAGASHEKI, THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) COUNCIL, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 5-7 DECEMBER 2011.

Hon. Chairperson,

Ambassador Lacy Swing, The Director General of the International Organisation for Migration,

Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General,

Distinguished Delegates,

Observers,

Ladies and gentlemen

I am honoured to participate at this 100th Session of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Council, here in Geneva, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

This IOM Council coincides with the Organization's 60th Anniversary and on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, I would like to congratulate all Member States, you Mr. Director General and your staff, for this important historical event, which indeed is a Milestone.

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the IOM, migration remains a key issue in today's global agenda. In this globalised world, the exchange of goods, services, capital, and ideas consequently lead to migration of humans. Migration also takes place in the form of settlers, asylum seekers and refugees and because of the rapid pace at which these flows and movements are taking place, sovereign states and stakeholders in migration are faced with challenges, namely developing and enhancing mechanisms that can manage migration effectively.

Migration and development are interdependent processes in a globalized world. Migration, if well managed, could make a meaningful developmental contribution to migrants' country of origin, transit and destination as well as to the individual migrants and their families. Countries that have put in place proper migration and management systems have made significant strides towards socio-economic development through migrants' remittances and acquired knowledge and skills.

Despite the undisputed benefits that migration offers, international migration trends and patterns in recent years have become increasingly complex, unpredictable and hybrid hence posing security and socio-economic challenges to affected countries. Most countries respond by adopting measures, for example those which tighten their border controls so as to prevent infiltration of irregular migrants.

Patterns of migrant push-backs between countries are a clear indication of inefficiencies amongst nations to address the challenges of the growing irregular movements.

Mutual and concerted efforts by all stakeholders in migration, focusing on regional and global capacity building are needed to strengthen migration governance.

With a view to build such capacity in migration management, in 2008 the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania established a training facility for migration functionaries, the Tanzania Regional Immigration Training Academy (TRITA) and in 2009, IOM created the Africa Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) - both institutions operate and co-exist in Moshi, Tanzania. While TRITA offers training opportunities to immigration functionaries from East African countries, ACBC offers capacity building programs in migration governance to migration functionaries from all African countries.

These facilities have created an environment for technical and scholarly symbiotic collaboration that ensure complementarity between the two facilities, hence making a strong framework in migration management in the Africa region and beyond. In this way, IOM performed its function to assist member states in meeting the growing challenges of migration management. However, a stronger bond between these facilities is yet to be achieved so that the purpose for which they were created is served effectively.

Hon. Chairperson,

Distinguished Delegates and Observers

May I take this opportunity to assure you that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is firmly committed to working together with other countries, IOM, as well as other international organisations to address challenges related to migration governance and to ensure that migration contributes to the efforts of development and poverty reduction of our respective countries and regions. I believe that we can achieve this by establishing strong policies, for example, that migration becomes a distinctive professional discipline which would lead to the establishment of sound mechanisms which ensure effective management of migration.

Tanzania is faced with the challenge of an increasing number of irregular migrants, particularly from Ethiopia and Somalia. Most of these are apprehended while trying to transit through Tanzania to Southern Africa and beyond in pursuit of perceived greener pastures.

From 2009 to November 2011, a total of 9924 irregular migrants were apprehended and kept in custody, most of who were from the Horn of Africa. In recent years, we have also experienced a notable growth of irregular migratory flows from outside Africa mainly persons from Pakistan and Bangladesh origin, transiting through to Southern Africa.

The return of such irregular migrants to their countries of origin and the costs incurred overstretch the meagre budget of the concerned ministry. I believe that many more developing countries, particularly in Africa, also face these challenges.

At this juncture, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to IOM, for their financial support that allowed us to repatriate about 2368 irregular migrants from Ethiopia, between the year 2009 and 2011.

In a bid to find a platform to address migration challenges facing regions in Africa, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, under the auspices of IOM and the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) hosted the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, on the 6-7 September 2010 to address the challenges of hybrid movements and irregular migration from the East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region to Southern Africa.

Experiences shared revealed existence of cartels of criminal syndicates of human traffickers and smugglers from the source, transit and destination countries. The conference observed that the challenges associated with irregular migration cannot be tackled single-handedly by any country and therefore highlighted the need for continued efforts in international cooperation.

I hope that through this session, we will be able to develop ways and means through which our countries, in collaboration with IOM, can mutually address these challenges nationally, regionally and internationally.

Hon. Chairperson,

Distinguished Delegates and Observers

Once more, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the honour and privilege bestowed upon me to participate at this important 100th Session of the IOM Council, here in Geneva.

Since we are approaching the end of the year 2011, I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2012.

I thank you for your attention.