



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT BY H.E. SABINE BÖHLKE-MÖLLER, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIA AT THE 106TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION

Mr. President,
Ambassador Swing; Director General of IOM
Distinguished Heads of Delegation
Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

Namibia aligns herself to the statement delivered by Ethiopia on behalf of the African Group.

At the outset, I congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election. We welcome the new members to the IOM family and in the same vein congratulate those admitted to the Organisation as observers. Namibia looks forward to working with you as we continue to look for ways and solutions to the ever changing, challenging and complex global phenomena of human mobility.

Mr. President,

The world finds itself in the worst migration crisis since the Second World War. Millions of persons are fleeing from war, persecution, poverty, the effects of

climate change or instability in their countries of origin. Whether they are called *migrants, refugees, or asylum seekers* it becomes irrelevant at the time when they need our help. We cannot be selective in the treatment of these vulnerable persons nor can we turn away from the situations in their countries of origin. We have to find a beneficial consensus-based solution to the causes of this crisis. Ignoring the root causes for this mass exodus' will not solve this problem.

In that regard, we are pleased that the SDG negotiations have resulted in migration and migrants being well represented; both in terms of migration as a positive force for sustainable development and in terms of promoting the rights and well-being of migrants.

We commend the informative and comprehensive report presented by the IOM Director General and would like to express our appreciation for his dedication and untiring efforts.

We also thank Ambassador Swing and his team for IOM Response Plan: Addressing Complex Migration Flows in the Mediterranean”, issued in June 2015.

Mr. President.

Drought continues to bite in Namibia. It has slowly shattered livelihoods and left people without the ability to meet their basic survival needs, resulting in drought migrants living a difficult life at the outskirts of towns. It is in this context that we appreciate and are looking forward to cooperate with the recently established IOM Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division.

In recent years, labour migration has been increasingly recognized as playing a significant role in development and the need for governments to harmonize policies and standards through bilateral and regional agreements has been widely noted. These facts make it clear that future policies should aim at the progressive elimination of obstacles to the movement of capital, labour, goods, services and people, among Member States within the broader context of regional integration and labour mobility.

Mr. President,

In this context, Namibia has benefitted and continues to benefit from the IOM collaboration and assistance rendered both at national and regional levels. Namibia with the help of IOM is about to complete her first Migration Profile.

We welcome and thank IOM for the recently approved projects that will benefit Namibia and other countries of the Southern Africa Region to develop capacities in Migration Management thus facilitate South-South Labour Mobility in Southern Africa.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, my delegation takes the opportunity to assure you of the determination of the Government of the Republic of Namibia to work with the International community, the IOM and other development partners to find solutions to the shared challenges of human mobility.

I thank you!