



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

Statement at the 106th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) by the Zambian delegation

Geneva, 24th to 27th November 2015

**Mr. Chairperson,
Honorable Ministers present,
Excellencies,
Director General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, On behalf of the Zambian Government and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to join other delegations who have spoken before me in welcoming the five new members and nine Observers to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and to take this opportunity to Congratulate His Excellency Ambassador of Belgium Mr. Bertrand de Crombrugge on his election as Chairperson of the 106th Session of the Council. I also wish to extend our congratulations to the two Vice Chairpersons and the Rapporteur on their ascendance to the Bureau. My delegation further, sends its warm congratulations to Ghana for being elected as External Auditors of IOM for the next three years.

Zambia aligns herself with the Statement delivered by Ethiopia on behalf of the Africa Group

Mr. Chairperson,

Zambia also wishes to congratulate the Director General, Ambassador William Lacy Swing for the highly informative and comprehensive report presented to the Council on the existing Global migration situation and indeed the state of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with special focus on the theme of Continuity,

Coherence and Change. We are confident that with its expertise IOM working with all stakeholders will overcome the unprecedented prevailing human irregular mobility and migrant governance problems prevailing world over.

Mr. Chairperson,

Migration world over, is increasing at an alarming rate due to a number of factors, among them the search for better livelihoods, peace and security. However, with the growth in migration, there is also increasing awareness of the hardships and discrimination faced by migrants. In some areas, increasing xenophobia, triggered by recession and unemployment, has led to increased hostility against migrants. Consequently, violations of human rights, exploitation, and abuse of migrants have continued, despite the existence of national and international instruments regulating the management of migrants' rights.

Migration management needs concerted efforts by governments by dealing with the root causes and develop policies that will mitigate the negative consequences of migration. This has the potential of facilitating the transfer of skills, contributing to cross-cultural enrichment and the provision of the much needed human resources as migrant workers fill the void in the labour-market. It is indeed worth noting that fair and effective migration management can help countries of origin, transit and destination attain many aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals. With the positive impacts of migration on the communities of origin,

transit and destination being enormous, we thus wish to encourage receiving countries not to be selective in their immigration policies and should recognise the positive impact of remittances on the economies of developing and underdeveloped countries as an important economic aspect that must be promoted.

Zambia's experience in managing migration issues is informed by partnerships with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the existence of specialised Government departments mandated to oversee immigration, and the continued review of legislation on immigration and refugees by the Zambian Parliament.

This is evident by the development and rolling out of 'Protection Tools for Vulnerable Migrants, which includes a well established National Referral Mechanism for all national actors in managing mixed migration in a humane approach. These migrant management tools were developed and implemented with technical and financial support from IOM and the European Union working with other cooperating partners.

In this regard, the Zambian Government has now began to carry out cross-border trainings with neighboring countries with a view to sharing common approach in handling migrants with a human based approach. Zambia has further been very active in participating at regional initiatives such at Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) which seeks to promote an effective regional approach in migrant management. This dialogue has provided a platform at which

SADC member states have informally engaged each other in exploring ways of handling challenges arising from migratory inflows and outflows to and from the region.

Further, owing to its relative peace and stability, Zambia has been a host to refugees and migrants from surrounding States, mainly from Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and the Horn of Africa. Consequently in partnership with the IOM, a number of migrant friendly policies, attending to HIV and health vulnerabilities of migrants, as well as capacity building on delivery of services to migrants are being implemented.

Mr. Chairperson,

Zambia, therefore, applauds IOM for having been a partner in her efforts to curbing Human Trafficking, Overseas resettlement of refugees, Immigration Border management and Movement, Emergency and Post-Crisis Migration Management. My Government stands firm to continue to demonstrate its commitment to the protection of the rights of migrants especially the vulnerable mostly the unaccompanied minors, women and children.

Mr. Chairperson,

In finding durable solutions for former refugees living in the country, the Council may wish to be advised that the local integration process of the 10,000 former Angolan refugees is so far progressing well. Further,

the Zambian Government in July 2015 approved the local integration of 4,000 Rwandan former refugees. The implementation of this activity has started and public announcements in the media are currently being made asking eligible Rwandans to apply to be considered for residence permits like their compatriots from Angolan.

That notwithstanding, many challenges do exist especially in the implementation of the local integration of the former Angolan Refugees with regard to socio-economic and infrastructure development support.

It is our hope that IOM together with other cooperating partners will support this programme of Local integration and ensure its successful implementation in order to serve as a good example to other countries still contemplating undertaking this difficult yet important durable solution path for migrants who have difficulties in repatriating to their country of origin.

Mr. Chairperson,

The need for IOM to foster partnerships cannot be over emphasized, in this regard Zambia wishes to applaud IOM in its continued efforts to look to new partnerships and strengthen existing ones to enable it meet the current challenges being experienced in migrant protection and assistance. We particularly wish to appreciate the partnership of IOM with UNHCR and the entire International Community in line with the principles of Preparedness, Partnerships and Professionalism in finding durable solutions for refugees, asylum seekers and other irregular migrants.

Mr. Chairperson,

Finally, Zambia wishes to assure you of its unwavering commitment and support in ensuring that IOM takes its rightful role as a leading UN Migration Agency.

I THANK YOU