

Statement by the Ambassador of Zimbabwe on the Occasion of the General Debate of the 106th session of the IOM Council: - 24 to 27 November 2015

Mr President

The Director-General

Honourable Ministers

Excellencies Ambassadors

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Zimbabwe delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ethiopia on behalf of the Africa Group and I wishes to add the following comments on its own behalf. I will commence by congratulating you Mr President Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrughe and your team for having being elected into the bureau of the Council. My delegation has full confidence in your leadership during your tenure as the bureau of the Council.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President Ambassador Sammie Eddico of Ghana and the other members of the outgoing bureau for the sterling work that they carried out while at the helm of Council.

Similarly, I want to thank the Director – General Ambassador William Lancy Swing for presenting a comprehensive and informative report on the activities that the Organisation undertook in 2014 and also for highlighting the core activities that the Organisation has carried out in 2015, which as he correctly put it was in every sense, “the year of the migrant”. Chief among the 2015 activities was of course the provision of assistance to thousands of migrants in wake of the migration crisis in Europe.

The Government of Zimbabwe commends the work that the IOM is undertaking not only in Europe but also in other regions where it is working with governments, local and regional economic communities on projects that relate to different aspects of migration. On this note, my delegation would like to thank the Director-General for having availed resources from the Development Fund to enable my government to finalise its Diaspora Engagement Policy Framework. In addition, my delegation would like to thank the Organisation for choosing Zimbabwe to be one of the countries to participate in the project on the development of a roadmap to facilitate South-South Labour Mobility in Southern Africa.

Mr President, my delegation welcomes the IOM Migration Governance Framework. This framework is a good tool that is useful in dealing with core migration issues in a systematic and transparent manner. The Migration Governance Framework and Migration Crisis Operational Framework that is already in use make the work of the Organisation predictable. It is the predictability element that makes IOM's operations unique.

My delegation also wishes to commend the Working Group on IOM-UN relations for its work that has resulted in a draft resolution which we adopted paving the way for the Director-General to engage with UN senior officials in order to discuss and agree on how the two organisations should relate and work together in migration and related areas. I wish the Director-General all the best in the discussions.

Finally, Mr President we want to salute the approach of the IOM which has worked hard to steer the migration debate away prejudice and stereotypes and that migrants do bring something to their host countries apart from the bundle of clothes. As is often aptly said, at the end of the day "we are all migrants", since very few of us here can claim truly claim to be native to the places we call home today.

I thank you