



Statement by H. E. Ambassador Pedro Comissário

Permanent Representative of Mozambique

to the United Nations Office in Geneva

and Other International Organizations

at the 107th Session of the IOM Council

Geneva, 5th December 2016

Mr. President,

Mr. Director General,

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to express my delegation's warmest congratulations on your election Mr. Ambassador John Paton Quinn, as the President of the 107th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Our congratulations are extensive to the other members of the Bureau.

I wish to take this opportunity to highly commend Ambassador William Swing, the Director-General of IOM and his hard-working team for the remarkable achievement the Organization has managed to register since our last session.

Mozambique joins the statement made by the Republic of Ghana on behalf of the African Group and we take this

opportunity to welcome the Kingdom of Tonga in joining the community of IOM, as well as other organizations admitted as observers.

Mr. Chairman, this year's session of the Council is of particular importance. It is the first after the adoption of the United Nations resolution that brings IOM into the UN family, as one of its agencies with the clear mandate of dealing with the migration issues. This is indeed a milestone in the international community's endeavours aimed at improving our collective efforts to better deal with the ever growing migration issue.

This development, alongside the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants will, undoubtedly, contribute a great deal to the materialization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals whose target number 10 advocates "facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies". My delegation reiterates its full political commitment in this regard.

We are conscious of the role IOM is bound to play as the leading agency for the Global Cluster for displacement induced by natural disasters linked to climate changes. In this connection, we strongly encourage consultations on

the eventual use of IOM's Migration Governance Framework, as a tool to track progress on the migration related targets on the SDGs, in the context of their global target nr.10.

Mr. President, we are of the view that this session of the IOM Council represents an excellent opportunity for reaching out to the intergovernmental conference that will adopt the principle of Global Impact for Migration that would serve as a regulatory instrument for the management of migration for future challenges.

Mozambique is fully committed to and will continue engaged in the implementation of the objectives and goals of Agenda 2030. To that end, we pledge our determination to work closely with IOM to achieve those goals.

It is within this spirit that we welcome and commend the ever dynamic and fruitful relationship between Mozambique and IOM. In this context, I am happy to inform this august Assembly that my Government has made some progress in the implementation of IOM project for "developing a roadmap to facilitate South-South Labor mobility in Southern Africa", within the framework of its Development Fund.

Let me highlight that the general objective of the IDF Labor Migration Project is to strengthen the institutional capacity

of Labor Ministries in the SADC countries covered by the project for the implementation of labor migration programs within the framework of the SADC Action Plan on labor migration, Regional migration policies and SADC employment and work protocols. The IDF labor migration project started in September 2015 and the activities are due to be completed in February 2017.

We hope that, through this regional project, the selected member states will have a greater capacity to manage labor migration issues. The project will further strengthen the MoU between Mozambique and OIM on the management of the situation of migrants.

Mr. President, Mozambique wishes to join previous speakers in appealing to IOM to increase the opportunities for more technical and senior staff from the African Continent to join IOM. We appeal, in particular, for the promotion of opportunities for senior African women in the organization.

I thank you!

Geneva, 05th December 2016.