



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

ADDRESS BY

H.E.SABINE BOHLKE-MOLLER

**AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
NAMIBIA**

AT THE 107TH IOM COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 2016

GENEVA

Mr. President

Your Excellencies

Members of delegation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

At the outset, I congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election.

We welcome 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.

Similarly, I would like to express Namibia's appreciation to the Director General of IOM for the manner in which IOM has continued to provide assistance to member states in the area of migration.

This year we witnessed the formalization of the relationship between the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations, the holding of the UN High Level Meeting on Addressing Large

Movements of Refugees and Migrants in New York on 19 September 2016 and importantly, the 65th Anniversary of the IOM. The outcome of the New York meeting clearly demonstrated that the movement of people have reached an unprecedented level requiring a globally coordinated approach of the International Community: to manage the movement and to ensure that the rights of migrants and refugees are respected, regardless of their status.

Namibia continues to host refugees and migrants from both the developing and the developed world.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen

With the assistance of the IOM Namibia produced and launched the first country Migration Profile in June 2016. This provided us with a clear picture that migrants are contributing to the economic growth and development in our country by filling positions in various sectors where the internal labour market is unable to satisfy demand. It further has presented us with an opportunity to map strategies aimed at filling the skill gaps with migrants who possess the relevant expertise, while facilitating training of locals in the areas identified in order to reduce the deficit in the labour market. In the same vein, policies are now being crafted to address the need in the areas where skills are not available locally.

While migration has a positive impact on development, we remain concerned that many migrants are not migrating out of choice but out of desperation. We are further concerned that despite dangers known to human kind, the use of illegal channels of migration continue to grow and thereby increase vulnerabilities.

In this regard, we encourage sending, transit and receiving States to work together in the spirit of humanity to reduce the vulnerabilities created when illegal channels are used.

Mr. President

Ladies and gentlemen

In conclusion, our continued collaboration in the area of migration remains important, not only to improve the facilitation of movement of persons but also to ensure that we combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling. In the same vein, all stakeholders need to work together to ensure respect for human rights of all migrants. Namibia is ready to play her part in this endeavour.

I thank you.