

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE BY AMBASSADOR T.
MUSHAYAVANHU AT THE 107TH SESSION OF IOM COUNCIL 5 TO
8 DECEMBER 2016**

The chairperson

The Director General Ambassador Lancy Swing

Distinguished Council members

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me commence my statement by aligning my delegation with the statement delivered by Ghana on behalf of the African Group. Allow me to also congratulate you Mr Chairperson and members of your bureau for having been elected to lead the council up to the next session in 2017.

We count on your collective wisdom and experience as we enter into a defining moment in the history of migration and this organisation. Starting from early next year, within the realm of the United Nations, we are going to negotiate the Global Migration Compact. To this end, under your leadership we need to ensure that the core values and indeed key frameworks of IOM are taken into account as we formulate the Global Migration Compact.

Chairperson, I also want to thank the Director General for the comprehensive and thought provoking report that he presented to us. Indeed, all the issues that he addressed are very important and they deserve our attention and some of them our actions. However, time does not allow me to respond to all of them so I will just touch on a few.

My government welcomes the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants and is fully supportive of the development of the Global Migration Compact. My government is also supportive of the idea that the process should be inclusive to encompass views from the Diaspora communities, civil society organisations and inter-governmental organisations such as the African Union which represents the collective positions of African member states of IOM.

The consultative process that IOM has agreed to support will not only bring on board the views of non-state actors but also enriches the inter-governmental negotiations. Nevertheless, beyond supporting the consultative process, my government would like IOM to also consider supporting interfaces between the Geneva and New York Missions so as to ensure that in the inter-governmental negotiations both technical and political aspects of migration are taken into account. Of course, at the level of member states we will continue to undertake our own internal consultations in preparations for the inter-governmental negotiations.

Chairperson, my government also wishes to put on record that, the Global Migration Compact that we are going to come up with should be inclusive and is not heavily weighted towards South-North migration in its focus but also South-South migration. More than 80% of today's migration is within the Global South and yet research has revealed that more attention is given to the South–North movements.

We, of course, do realise that the IOM in its approaches and interventions deals with South–South Migration and indeed the inter-state migration

that is common in Africa. What we are highlighting here is that the political discourse does seem to dwell more on South-North migration and research tends to be biased in favour of that trend as well. We therefore need to guard against coming up with an outcome document that does not address all migration flows.

Finally, Chairperson I wish to end my address by thanking the IOM for its continued support to migration programmes in Zimbabwe. Currently, Zimbabwe is receiving support courtesy of the IOM Development Fund to finalise and propagate its Diaspora Engagement Policy framework so as to create an environment for Zimbabweans in the diaspora to take part in national development through investments.

My government believes in the 'triple win approach' that should be core to migration and development. A win for the migrants, a win for the host country and yet another win for the sending country. This triple win should be at the centre of labour migration management and should find an expression in the Global Migration Compact.

I thank you