



**SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT: 109TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

AGENDA ITEM 13

27-30 NOVEMBER 2018, GENEVA

Thank you Chair,

Allow me to congratulate you Chair and Members of your Bureau for your election to lead the Council to the next session in 2019 and express our full support in working with you.

My delegation also congratulates the newest Members of the IOM, the Republic of Uzbekistan.

My delegation also wishes to thank the Director-General for the report presented to members.

We are encouraged by the enhanced cooperation with the UNHCR and IOM on mixed migratory flows. The gender responsive approach in crisis situations and gender mainstreaming in the organization is of paramount importance to my delegation. The IOM must continue its core competencies of independence, responsiveness, effective field presence, saving lives and flexibility. The regular updates to Member States of issues of Governance, risk management and sexual exploitation measures are noted.

Chair,

My delegation is concerned with the current trends in international migration which pose challenges to multilateralism, countries are opting out unilaterally in abdication of leadership and often times agreements are disregarded. The wave of migration reported in the past two years is still the biggest challenge that requires urgent attention. It is a reality that is exacerbated by, amongst others poverty, food insecurity political, social and conflict arising from geopolitical contestations by superpowers that regrettably do not take any responsibility.

The complexities of the root causes and its cascading effects necessitate more comprehensive action from the international community.

International coordination and collaboration is needed more than ever before. It is for this reason that we note with appreciation the collaboration between the IOM, States and other UN Agencies. We also note with appreciation the IOM initiatives in addressing climate change and environmental degradation that causes people to migrate. While these initiatives are well and good, my delegation would like to highlight the importance of ensuring that encroaching onto areas of operation of other Agencies, like the UNHCR, UNFCCC, amongst others, should be avoided at all times.

Regarding the IOM partnerships with States, it is important that the IOM work closely with national government actors as opposed to working directly with local authorities.

For South Africa, multilateralism is important and the IOM is an important critical organization in the multilateral sphere which always strives to find global solutions to the international migration challenges. In this regard, we note the conclusion of the global compact for migrants. Any commitments towards the GCM that are not accompanied by concrete interventions and resource mobilization to relieve pressure from the developing countries by developed nations, are unlikely to lead the international community' to any realization of these noble ideas.

We further appreciate the support IOM provided during the negotiations of the GCM and the decision by the UNSG to mandate the IOM as Secretariat and Coordinator of the UN Migration Network.

Chair,

During the dark era of apartheid, the then liberation movement and now the governing party fought for freedom of movement. One of the four pillars of our struggle was international solidarity and we have always believed in internationalism. The pressure of the influx of international migrants who come to settle in cities, in most cases without validated documents, highlight how the population has doubled in some parts of South

Africa since the dawn of democracy in 1994. So, both internal and external migration puts a huge strain on infrastructure and also to the limited resources available.

We all know that human mobility is an age-old phenomenon and without a doubt, planned and orderly migration has benefits whilst unplanned migration adversely affects the host countries. Disorderly migration can be disastrous for migrants and how the host communities come under tremendous stress. When migration, is not properly managed, it becomes a source of political tensions and can result to human tragedies. It also feeds criminal networks that exploit vulnerable people, undermine local laws and regulations and expose the security vulnerabilities associated with irregular migration.

Chair,

In South Africa, poverty has an African face and affects the majority of our people. There is therefore an urgent need to address this anomaly and decisively deal with the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality for our democracy to succeed.

In conclusion Chair, South Africa will within the existing international obligations support all initiatives contributing to a well- managed migration and international cooperation. An efficient migration system is in the interest of us all. South Africa wishes to reaffirm its commitment to continue to work with the IOM.

I thank you