



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

STATEMENT MADE BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

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Ambassador of South Africa and Permanent Representative to the
United Nations and other International organizations
in Geneva**

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Chairperson,

On behalf of the South African delegation please allow me to congratulate you, and the other new Members of the Bureau upon your election. Our appreciation also goes to the previous Bureau for all their effort and hard work. My delegation also wishes to align itself with the statement read by the distinguished delegate from Tunisia on behalf of the Africa group.

Chairperson,

The convening of this Council session highlights the importance of an international dialogue on migration and its multidimensional aspects, with the overarching item on “International Dialogue and Migration” particularly underscoring this important notion. The dynamic changes and challenges brought about by an ever increasing globalised world, continue to challenge our approach to migration. For South Africa, one of the main challenges remains to approach migration from a developmental perspective with a particular view to **fight poverty and under-development**. We believe that through the implementation NEPAD which focuses on socio-economic development and human resources development, the root causes of migration which are poverty and under-development stand a good chance of being addressed. We, however, note with concern the impact that brain drain has on the implementation of NEPAD.

Chairperson,

The ILO estimates that by 2025, one in ten Africans will live and work outside their countries of origin. This calls for comprehensive plans to be in place to ensure Africa copes with this challenge. However, we are optimistic that within a framework of global dialogue, international cooperation and assistance, to which the IOM is contributing, we would be able to effectively deal with these challenges. We encourage the IOM in developing programmes and budgets to give priorities to Africa as a place that has the greatest need for assistance. In this regard it will be significant to set up relevant institutions to ensure the effective implementation of such programmes on the Continent.

Chairperson,

South Africa believes that the challenge of International Migration cannot be addressed through preoccupation with security considerations without a broad frame that takes into account the developmental aspects of migration.

My delegation welcomes proposals made in the report to explore international recruitment codes for professionals from sectors under stress, and incentives designed to encourage the retention or return of healthcare workers and teachers. These are options that could be further pursued to address this particular challenge.

The protection of the human rights of migrants, which they enjoy as human beings and as workers, is also regarded as an essential component of orderly and humane migration. The South African Constitution with its Bill of Rights offers a comprehensive protection and enjoyment of human rights to both citizens and migrants.

In the same context, South Africa would also like to voice its support for IOM's commitment to gender mainstreaming, both inside the organization and in its programmes. It remains important to incorporate into all policies and programmes on migration and development the increasing feminisation of migration and to address the vulnerability of female migrants and children to avoid exploitation and abuse in the migration process.

Chairperson,

We also welcome the renewed attention the organization is giving to the recruitment of persons of African origin into the IOM.

South Africa has over the years financially supported the IOM Regional Office for Southern Africa's programmes and projects and we will continue to do so.

In closing, Chairperson, we wish to thank the IOM for the commitment and enthusiasm for addressing migration and its many related challenges and we look forward to the organization to continue to play an active role in addressing those challenges, particularly in Africa. We look forward to the success of the meeting.

I thank you, Chairperson