

**INTERVENTION BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR  
ZIMBABWE HON. P. MPARIWA (M.P.) DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF 100TH  
SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL MEETING.**

The Director General Mr. L Swing

Distinguished delegates and invited guests

Dear colleagues

**Chairperson**, allow me on the onset to congratulate our Organization on its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and also express gratitude on behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe for the excellent work that the Director General and his staff continue to execute in assisting our Governments to manage migration.

I have been following the debate closely and in my view it is clear that the advent of the global financial crisis and the subsequent job deficits in many parts of the world have ushered new challenges to migration. It is for this reason that I find the discussions on the nexus of migration and development to be the arena that may provide sustainable solutions to emerging challenges of migration.

My Government subscribes to this thinking and has made initiatives towards integrating migration-affected groups and communities into government-led recovery and development processes with the assistance of the local IOM Offices.

**Chairperson**, the world is witnessing growing anti-migrant opinion as the teeth of the global financial crisis tighten their grip on host communities. This phenomenon has in some cases manifested itself in very ugly and harmful circumstances. It is a cause of concern and in my view requires attention of all interested stakeholders. I believe more

efforts should be directed towards social integration initiatives with a view to building lasting relationships between migrant and host communities. I wish to applaud our Organization for interventions that it has made in assisting the affected victims.

Suffice to mention also that there is need also to continue assisting member countries to pluck out and destroy syndicates of human trafficking which threaten to derail our efforts in managing migration. My Government greatly appreciates the assistance offered by IOM in this respect particularly in enhancing our institutional capacities in combating and eliminating trafficking in persons.

It is in this context Chairperson that I think the regional consultative processes should be given more active roles in facilitating dialogue platforms to mitigate regional migration challenges. I am aware that in our region we have the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) whose activities and efforts need to be revitalized. I am convinced this platform can achieve more through building on existing bilateral arrangements between countries of the region with a view to fostering closer cooperation on migration within the region.

It is imperative Chairperson for our Organization to build stronger partnerships with other Multilateral Organizations whose work involve issues of migrant workers. I make this remark cognizant of the benefits of building strong synergies with other Multilateral Organizations given the fact that migration is a cross cutting issue.

Some of us who are emerging migrants sending countries need to learn from others within IOM who have wider experience in managing and mitigating the challenges of migration. I therefore make a call for the Organization to facilitate exchange of information and best practices

for we do not necessarily have to invent the wheel. More collaboration has to be facilitated on establishing appropriate policies and the necessary legislative framework to assist us better manage migration.

**Chairperson**, I believe we should in our programming try to strengthen initiatives particularly those which are aimed at providing alternatives to migration in countries of origin. I am aware that this may be viewed as stretching the mandate of our Organization a bit too far, however my view is that the challenges of migration cannot be mitigated through the traditional approaches of regulating migration alone. There has to be some dynamism in that respect which will make the Organization relevant to the current challenges.

The issue of skills deficits arising from migration in our parts of the world continues to haunt our human capital developments efforts including the general socio economic initiatives in our countries. While issues around this topic have been relegated to bilateral arrangements, the need to mitigate the effects of skills loss in sending countries cannot be over emphasized.

Finally I wish to commit the Government of Zimbabwe in undertaking and participating in IOM programmes and activities.

I thank you