



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. SABINE BÖHLKE-MÖLLER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

**AT THE 105TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

NOVEMBER 2014

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

- **Mr. President,**
- **Ambassador Swing, Director General of IOM**
- **Distinguished Heads of Delegation**
- **Your Excellencies,**

Namibia fully aligns itself to the statement made by Botswana on behalf of the Africa Group.

Let me congratulate Ambassador Sammie Pesky Edicco of Ghana as the President of the 105th Session of the IOM Council, and assure the newly elected bureau of our full support to make a success of this meeting and your tenure. Namibia also welcomes the Independent State of Samoa as a Member and the Observers who were admitted to the IOM family.

Mr President

We appreciate the informative report and presentation thereof yesterday by the Director General. The work of the IOM in addressing the number of crisis situations in the world and particularly in Africa is commendable. Namibia especially welcomes the recent involvement of the IOM in efforts to assist with the Ebola response in West Africa.

Mr. President

The relations between Namibia and the International Organization for Migration continue to grow and deepen. With the help of the organization, Namibia will conduct the first ever migration profiles. The outcomes of the profiles would also inform the process of drafting Namibia's migration policy which is currently under consideration. We are also grateful that IOM and UNHCR continue to work together in settlement of former refugees to countries of settlement. This process eases the burden for the State, given the many competing priorities.

Namibia also appreciates the assistance received from IOM with regard to training of immigration officers in migration management.

Mr President

In order to grow our economy, Namibia has made a conscious decision to use the concept of migration for development by importing skills to fill the gaps in the labour market. At the same time and as these migrants drive development projects, Namibians are employed to understudy them in order to create a critical mass of skills in the long term. This practice is supported by our fourth National Development Plan (NDP4).

This policy has so far served Namibia well and we will pursue it to achieve our goals. This is because Namibia professes for a well-

managed and orderly migration that will maximize the development benefits of migration, while minimizing its challenges

Mr. President

Namibia is pleased to see that the IOM is building on the outcomes of the 2013 United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and that the Organization is actively involved in consultations leading to the formulation of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda. We support the significant progress that has been made in advocating for the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development goals.

I thank you.