



STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA TO THE 105TH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON MIGRATION (IOM), 25-28 NOVEMBER 2014, GENEVA

Chairperson,

We wish to extend our congratulations to you and the new members of the Bureau. Please rest assured of our full support. Our delegation also associates ourselves with the statement made by Botswana on behalf of the African Group.

South Africa wishes to thank the Director General, (Amb Swing), Deputy Director-General, (Amb Thompson) and the IOM Management and staff for your dedication, commitment and expertise in advancing the mandate of the IOM, as the leading agency on international migration. The IOM's cooperation at the national level and in Southern Africa, with its long history of inter-regional migration, is highly valued.

The Director-General's report, highlighted under three main headings, key challenges that require our collective attention as the evidence and gravity of migration are escalating but similarly, as the opportunities to positively address migration, are also numerous. We share, the Honourable Mrs Graca Machel's view that it is the "quality of migration" that must change and that the sad images of migrants caught up in crises, in its current numbers, are unacceptable.

Chairperson,

South Africa through various initiatives, associates itself with the important work of the IOM to ensure that the rights and interests of migrants are protected and advanced. Our Department of Justice and Constitutional Development embarked with the IOM on a pilot project, called the *Cargo Box*, to raise awareness of human trafficking and smuggling. This idea of a Cargo Box was the brainchild of students from the University of Johannesburg, who use the imagery of a 'box' containing a *trapped 'puppet'* to sensitize communities about the scourge of trafficking and smuggling. The Cargo Box travelled across public spaces in South Africa, to demonstrate the journey of a victim of trafficking and smuggling caught up in bondage, exploitation and trauma. We are collectively responsible to stop these grave human rights violations.

Human mobility, if not properly managed, can engender many health hazards. South Africa through its municipal structures partnered with the IOM to address the health and wellbeing of migrants and other populations on the move, including local communities affected by

migration by providing access to health services. In this respect the IOM can count on South Africa's support to eradicate barriers in the way of the full integration of migrants into local communities so that they can enjoy the same benefits and rights that any South African migrant, and the African Diaspora, wish to enjoy elsewhere in the world.

We know international migration is a complex phenomenon as highlighted in the HLD and in the IOM World Migration Reports. It is a well-established fact that South Africa also attracts more migrants in increasing numbers. We share the IOM's objective to contribute to a better understanding of the links between international migration and development so as to harness the development potential of migration for the benefit of national governments, local communities and migrants themselves. We need to explore how best this synergy can contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Chairperson,

Being a migrant, takes drive, talent and resourcefulness. That is also why South Africa has chosen to brand our Diaspora under the name; "Brand South Africa" which utilises an outreach project entitled "Global South Africans" as a network of "exceptional people". "Brand South Africa" is a Presidential Initiative to promote our country as a competitive business destination and reliable partner. This project was launched in recognition that South African migrants can be sources of development for our country, and those countries where they reside. Everywhere Diaspora networks are making a difference in their mother countries and remittances are helping to fuel the African growth story.

We have a long history of receiving migrant workers from the SADC region and the wider African continent. We continue to benefit from the immigration of many people with critical skills with many professionals from our continent having settled legally in South Africa. In order to ensure efficient management of international migration, South Africa's new immigration regulations have been introduced in the form of the Immigration Amendment Acts of 2007 and 2011 and the new Immigration Regulations of 2014. This is to ensure the effective and efficient management of migration in the interest of its national security while ensuring that it contributes to economic development and prosperity of the country.

Turning to IOM-UN Relations, we believe that a global governance mechanism is the best guarantor of stability, sustainability both for the IOM and Member States and that such a system provides a framework for decision-making by consensus, while asserting national values and interests. We support broad-based partnerships with migration at its core business and believe that duplication of mandate by other organizations be avoided. We are convinced that the IOM's strength lies in its responsiveness to need and speed of intervention. This is not impossible even if part of the UN system.

Finally Chairperson,

We wish to thank the IOM for its support programmes as we implement the SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, recognizing our inter-dependence as a sub-region and the Protocol, together with those of the sub-regions of our Continent, will contribute to a continental migration management framework that incorporates migration

issues and solutions unique to our various regions in a coordinated manner. Through the IOM Migration Dialogue Forum (MIDSA) South Africa is able to provide political and material support to promote consultation in the sub-region to create conditions that are more conducive to harmonised migration systems

I thank you