



STATEMENT

BY

HONOURABLE MACHESETSA MOFOMOBE

DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

AT THE

108TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2017

-GENEVA

Chair;

Ambassador William Lacy Swing;

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers;

Distinguished delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I wish to express my delegation's gratitude to participate in this 108th Session of the Council of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). I further seize this opportunity to commend Ambassador William Lacy Swing, the Director General of IOM and the Bureau for the remarkable preparations for this conference. Lesotho aligns herself with the statement delivered by Togo on behalf of the African Group.

Chair

Our session comes in the midst of shocking acts of modern-day slavery in our part of the world. These heinous acts have no place in the twenty first century and therefore my delegation wishes, in strongest terms, to unequivocally condemn these acts of barbarism. We hope that the Government of Libya will leave no stone unturned in investigating this despicable actions. We also call upon the international community to carry a banner of support to assist Libya on this matter in earnest.

This year's session is particularly important as it marks the first anniversary of IOM as a member of the United Nations Family. We are confident that

IOM as the UN Migration Agency will most effectively and efficiently coordinate with other UN Agencies in addressing migration issues. This is therefore a big achievement on the part of international community, especially members of IOM in their quest to improve their management of more complex migratory flows.

This endeavor, together with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants will go a long way in realizing the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the light of target number 10 which supports “facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of well-managed migration policies.

Chair

Lesotho is the only country in the world which is completely surrounded by a single country and therefore migration is of great importance to us as it affects each and every household in the country in some way. Migrant remittances are particularly vital for Lesotho’s economy and in recent years the World Bank has ranked Lesotho amongst the top remittance-receiving countries as a percentage of GDP. In this regard, addressing the issue of costs of sending remittances is very crucial for my delegation.

With regard to the Global Compact, Lesotho with the assistance of International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has embarked on extensive consultations with all stakeholders on the global compact with a view of working on the implementation plan. The government is reviewing its

National Strategic Development Plan and aims to fully integrate migration in the Plan, in line with sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Africa Agenda 2063, the Africa we want. The Kingdom of Lesotho is therefore fully committed to the course of IOM and undertakes to continue to work closely with the agency.

As I conclude Chair, I would like to reiterate the importance of putting the human person at the center of all our cooperation initiatives on migration as we are taught by the Ubuntu philosophy that “I am because you are”.

I thank you for your kind attention.