

Thank you, Chairperson,

Director General

I have the honor, on behalf of the delegation of the Government of the Republic of Zambia, to take this opportunity to commend you for your leadership shown in the handling the deliberations of this meeting. I wish to commend the bureau and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Secretariat for the good work in preparing the background documents and support to member states. You can rest be assured of our support in discharging your mandate.

Zambia aligns itself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the Africa Group by Ghana. However, we wish to add our voice in our national capacity on certain important issues. As many who have spoken before us we commend IOM on its first Anniversary since its being admitted as an agency within the United Nations system last year 2016. We also wish to commend the work of IOM, the Director General in particular in his quest to see the growing numbers of Member states to the IOM family together with those of the international organization with the observer status. It is in this regard that Zambia would like to congratulate the governments of the Republic of Cuba and Cook Islands on their admission to the IOM member states and the republic of Kuwait as an observer.

Mr. Chairperson,

Considering the outstanding commitment of the IOM in promptly addressing the challenges associated with large movements of displaced families and individuals, we value the New York Declaration as an important milestone. We commend the work which has been done so far by all stakeholders in

developing the key elements for the envisaged Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and role the IOM has played with regard to the discussions that are ongoing, including the efforts, while working together with the government of Uganda and the African Union, in ensuring the African Common positions towards the Global Compact on Migration negotiations.

Zambia's political commitment to the issues discussed at the New York Summit has continued and we have participated regularly in the ongoing discussions and we will ^{participate} in the yet to be held stocktaking Conference in Mexico. We therefore, welcome the Director Generals' highlights on the activities that will follow ahead of the intergovernmental Conference to be held in 2018 at which a global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration will be adopted. We are also encouraged by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco's decision to host the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in December 2018. This shows the seriousness the Continent attaches to the protecting migrants regardless of their status.

Chairperson,

Recent human mobility has seen a different shift resulting from a number of reasons, therefore the need to raise both organizational and that of IOM Member States with regard to migration management both at regional and global level is eminent.

At our national level, IOM has remained a partner in addressing difficulties arising from the mixed movements experienced, including regular and irregular migration as well as labour migration and is a destination of choice for migrants for many other reasons.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia together with IOM, since January, 2017 has been undertaking a project to enhance Zambia's migration profile, some lessons have been learnt and migration issues have now taken root into national policies and will improve migration governance in Zambia for the benefit of the migrants and the Zambian community.

The project came at the right time when the country was in the process of launching one of its important national policy documents "the 7th National Development Plan" and can only encourage this kind of assistance by IOM to continue with its good work in this regard. That IOM will remain an important partner in the program and Zambia is looking forward to strengthening the program.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I should mention that Zambia remains committed to continuing its collaboration with IOM and looks forward to engagement in the work of IOM including other programs that would promote and facilitate safe, regular and dignified movements of migrants regardless of their legal status. As we have stated before we look forward to the Global Migration Compact which shall be based on consolidating the many fragmented efforts that do exist in this field so as to complement the many efforts which are currently in place.

I thank you,