

Statement intervention for the general debate at the 108th session of IOM Council: 28 November to 1 December 2017.

Chairperson

Hon Ministers here present

The Director -General Mr William Lacy Swing

Your Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Let me start by congratulating you and the other members of the bureau for having been elected to steer the affairs of the council at a critical moment in the migration discourse as we inch closer to the commencement of the inter-governmental negotiations on the global compact on migration. My delegation has confidence in your leadership.

Before going any further, let me associate my delegation with the statement made by Ghana on behalf of the Africa Group.

Let me also thank the Director-General for the comprehensive and informative report that he presented to us and for the support that the organisation has rendered in the preparatory work towards the Global Compact on Migration.

My delegation applauds the organisation for supporting the regional, sub-regional and national multi stakeholders' consultations that took place in Africa and elsewhere. Three national multi stakeholders' consultations around the development of the Global Compact on Migration supported by IOM took place in Zimbabwe and my government is grateful to IOM for the support.

Chairperson, IOM once again proved that it is prudent and efficient by utilising its existing migration dialogue structures, especially in the global South where migration is more pronounced.

To this end, my delegation is convinced that, migration platforms such as Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) and the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) which have over the years played

a significant role in managing inter regional migration dynamics will play critical role in the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration.

The Global Compact on Migration ought to 'speak' to the regional and sub-regional structures and institutions. As a collective, we should not shy away from prescribing roles for them in the Global Compact on Migration.

We envisage that once adopted the Global Compact will provide a sound and pragmatic basis for dealing with migration challenges but also for member states, regions, migrants and interested stakeholders to benefit from well managed migration regimes.

Of course, the Global Compact will not be about re-inventing the wheel on migration given that these issues are well articulated in the existing international instruments and frameworks. Indeed, IOM frameworks are pragmatic and have proved to be efficient and effective. Rather, the Global Compact on Migration will be about political commitment towards a well-managed and beneficial international migration regime that if well managed will play a meaningful role in realising the sustainable global goals of the agenda 2030.

My delegation therefore envisages an increasing role for the IOM on migration issues, working with the relevant UN agencies and as well as other stakeholders once, the global compact is adopted.

Chairperson,

On bilateral issues, my government is grateful to the continued support it receives from the IOM Development Fund. Recently, the Development fund released the outstanding amount for the Diaspora Engagement Initiatives. With this kind of support, my government will be able to reach out to the Zimbabwean Diaspora communities in Africa, Europe, Americas and elsewhere with a view to having the Zimbabweans in the Diaspora participate in the development discourse inclusive of investing back home. This is more so with the recent developments in Zimbabwe where some citizens in the Diaspora my want to return. We count on the IOM to partner us should this expectation come to pass.

I thank you