

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MUSHAYAVANHU ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE GENERAL DEBATE AT THE 109<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF  
THE IOM COUNCIL: 27 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2018**

The President of the Council

The Director General Mr Antonio Vitorino

Excellencies here present

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

Allow me to commence my address by congratulating you Mr President and other members of the bureau for being elected to lead the Council at a crucial moment in the history of international migration as we are about to enter the implementation phase of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. We count on your collective wisdom to guide us in the in the formative stages of the implementation of the GCM.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome Mr Vitorino our Director General. Mr Vitorino and his team should count on Zimbabwe's full support in the discharge of their duties.

My delegation also wants to welcome the new member, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the International Monetary Fund and the International Emergency & Development Aid that have joined as observers.

Furthermore, my delegation wishes to thank the Director General for the report that he presented to us which touches on his vision at the helm of the organisation as well as the pertinent aspects of the journey that are about to embark on after the formal adoption of the GCM.

Before delving deeper into substantive issues, I wish to indicate that Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statement made by the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Africa Group.

Indeed, my government fully supports the sentiments expressed by the Kingdom of Morocco that we need to rally behind the GCM, which after all is a promotional framework to guide us in strengthening international migration governance and management at all levels.

Nothing has been reinvented, the GCM is anchored on existing international norms, it reinforces existing frameworks on international migration including those that were adopted by this council and are being implemented by IOM. Additionally, and quite importantly it is about what we committed ourselves to in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This behoves us not to discriminate when it comes to our approach to international migration. We have to walk the talk when we say 'no one should be left behind'.

Mr President, the GCM relates to all situations including the South-North and the South-South migration flows. It is indeed 'one size fits all'. It will

apply to our backyards in Africa and elsewhere in the Global South. In the case of Africa and as rightly pointed out by the Kingdom of Morocco more people migrate within the continent than to other destinations. Eighty percent of African migration is within the region. We are therefore gearing ourselves to implement the GCM in Africa, in our labour markets and communities.

To this end, the Africa group working with partners like the IOM, ILO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa will come up with an implementation strategy of the GCM bearing in mind the regional and global reviews to take place in 2020 and 2022 respectively. Such a strategy will spell out the nature and form of the regional consultative process, taking into account existing regional consultative processes. It will not be business as usual we are determined to make international migration work for all affected and concerned.

Mr President,

As I conclude, let me underline that Zimbabwe is ready to play its part in giving effect to the GCM. The GCM will be disseminated widely including tabling it in the legislature in order for the political leaders to run with it in their respective constituencies. In addition, the inter-sectorial migration structures will be revamped, and a host of national migration and related frameworks will be reviewed so ensure conformity with the GCM.

**I thank you**