

**STATEMENT BY NAMIBIA ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE 110<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COUNCIL, GENERAL DEBATE, ON TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2019**

Thank you Chairperson for giving me the floor.

The Chairperson of the Council,  
The Director General Mr Antonio Vitorino,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the Honour to deliver this Statement on behalf of the Africa Group.

The African Group would like to congratulate the incoming Chairperson of the Council Bureau, the Permanent Representative of Denmark, along with the other incoming officers. Similarly we thank the outgoing Chairperson, the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia for his efforts in chairing the Council Bureau.

The Africa Group welcomes the report of the Director General.

The Africa Group would also like to thank the Deputy Director General, Ambassador Laura Thompson, for graciously accepting to extend her tenure to ensure that the efficient and effective running of the IOM is not hampered.

We are approaching a year since the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (the GCM). The past year has seen much done towards migration governance and management efforts. Globally, we have seen the launch of the UN Network on Migration, as well as the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).

On the African continent, the African Union Commission in partnership with various UN Agencies and other partners have developed a draft implementation plan to guide and support African Member States in the implementation of the GCM. This draft plan is informed by the AU Migration Agenda, Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Indeed all the initiatives mentioned above are most timely, as the migration crisis continues to command the attention of communities, governments and international organizations.

The effects of migration are felt poignantly in Africa, and in response, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union declared 2019 as the “Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.”

Both opportunities and challenges abound as it concerns migration. Over the coming years Africa will see significant population growth, which includes a more vibrant youth component, the continent is also pursuing will pursue an area of free movement, under the African Continental Free Trade Area.

It is the African Group’s hope that it can continue to count on the support of organizations such as the IOM and other partners to address these changes.

The African Group reiterates its call for the implementation of the GCM in a manner that reinforces Africa’s own efforts to improve migration governance.

In conclusion, Chairperson, the African Group calls for a cooperative and pragmatic approach, which entails Member States of the IOM and all partners pulling in one direction to optimize the overall benefits of migration, while addressing the risks and challenges faced by communities and governments in countries of origin, transit and destination.

I thank you.