



110th SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL

November 26-29, 2019

**Statement by Her Excellency Ambassador Margarida Izata
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Angola to Geneva**

Mr. President,

Excellencies

Angola welcomes all delegations to the 110th session of the IOM and aligns itself with the statement made by Namibia on behalf of the African Group. We take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr. President and the new members of the bureau.

Angola takes note with appreciation of the Report presented by Mr. António Vitorino and commends him for his leadership on the ongoing work to make OIM more effective and solid.

In the same vein, Angola would like to assure its support to the reforms that are currently being undertaken look to create a more democratic and inclusive Organization.

Mr. President,

This 110th Session of the IOM Council takes place when most African migrants still struggle to understand the challenges and patterns of their new status. That is why Angola considers crucial, the need of address the root causes of irregular migration and the problem of human trafficking across the continent.

Mr. President

As an old, very old phenomenon, Migration continues to mobilize the world in ways never seen before. It is keen to note the timeless work developed by the UN System, particularly by the IOM in this regard.

In the late nineteenth century, one of the founders of migration studies, **Mr. Ernst Ravenstein (1889)**, described migration as "*life and progress*," while the sedentary lifestyle indicated as "*stagnation*."

Today, we can see that society in general has distanced itself from this point of view, as migration is seen in a more negative lens. Xenophobic behavior and border control of

migration flows seems to become the Alpha and Omega of North-South migration policy, yet the reasons why so many people migrate are obviously diverse and difficult to have a unique justification.

As we all know, migration is not a choice for millions of migrants, but a necessity: they do not choose to migrate but they are forced to flee, rooted out by war, persecution, natural disasters or poor economic development. Each migration is an individual and often uprooted story.

Therefore, Angola considers very timely the implementation of the **Global Compact on Safe, Ordered and Regular Migration** as a guiding instrument to make more pragmatic the International Cooperation, in particular on the data collection and research on migration at national, regional and international levels. The promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of their status must also be addressed.

Finally, Mr. President,

The Republic of Angola stands committed to working with IOM and develop a comprehensive migration strategy that takes into account all demands of National and international Migration.

I Thank you.