

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR PENDA NAANDA,  
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE AT THE  
110TH SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL, FROM THE 26TH TO THE  
29TH NOVEMBER 2019**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

It is an honor for me to address the 110th Session of the IOM Council in my national capacity. I extend to you Director General, warm greetings from Hon. France Kapofi, Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration of Namibia, who could not be here today, due other issues of national importance. He has, however, requested me to convey this message to you and your dedicated team. My country commends you, and your team for your continued commitment to support migrants and other persons of concern to the IOM Globally.

Allow me to congratulate you Chairperson, and Members of the Bureau for your election to lead the Council to the next session in 2020, and express Namibia's support in working with you.

My delegation would also like to thank the Director General for his report and assures him and his team of its support in the execution of their duties.

My delegation also wishes to indicate that it aligns itself with the statement delivered by my delegation on behalf of the African Group earlier.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is almost a year since the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which represents a historic opportunity to improve international cooperation on migration, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development. The past year has seen commendable progress from all corners of the world towards implementing the Compact.

The IOM's vital role in facilitating the management and governance of migration cannot be overemphasized. My delegation would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to call on all member states to embrace

the GCM, and join the momentum that has been created towards the successful implementation of the compact, to assist the global effort in harvesting the benefits of migration, while addressing its challenges.

In the same breathe Mr. Chairperson; my delegation has the distinct pleasure to express sincere gratitude to the IOM for the following:

1. Assistance rendered to Namibia to draft a migration policy, which has been validated and shall soon be submitted to Cabinet, for approval.
2. Support on the implementation of the border resident care and border pass under the IOM funding. This project will be starting in 2020.
3. Co-hosting the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) Ministerial Conference, which took place during June 2019, in Windhoek. The outcome document has been submitted to the SADC Secretariat as part of Namibia's handing over of SADC Chairmanship, to Tanzania, during August 2019.

Mr. Chairman,

The deteriorating situation of migrants in various part of the world, combined adverse effects of poverty, population growth, scarce resources and environmental change and the ongoing threats posed by non- State armed groups, remains a concern to my delegation. Migrants cannot be considered beneficiaries of our work; they should be viewed as empowered partners in establishing new futures and contributing to sustainable development more broadly.

The IOM should continue its comprehensive approach in its efforts with various partners to offer life-saving and other forms of humanitarian assistance to migrants, irrespective of the context in which they find themselves.

Namibia will look forward to the development of a pan-African strategy, that the Director General indicated will offer a more strategic perspective on the Organization's engagement on the continent and engage key regional governance structures such as the African Union.

These strategies will no doubt inform country-level planning and offer a framework for offices to provide constructive input and framing within United Nations country teams.

Namibia welcomes IOM's cooperation with the WHO in the implementation of the Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage as well as with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in support of the High Level Panel on Internal Displacement, which was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General last month. This is indeed a unique opportunity to tackle the protracted nature of internal displacement, identify best practices and work towards durable solutions.

My delegation welcomes IOM's efforts at country level, aimed at ensuring that migration is fully integrated into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

Finally Mr. Chairman, Namibia welcomes the contribution of the IOM to the implementation of SDG 12, which is ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns through the launch of the "paperless" World Migration Report. This is commendable.

I thank you.