

**Zimbabwe statement for the general debate at the 110<sup>th</sup> session of the IOM Council: 26 to 29 November 2019**

**Mr President**

**Director-General**

**Hon Ministers**

**Excellencies**

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statement made by Namibia on behalf of the Africa group. We wish to congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election to lead the council for the next 12 months. You can be rest assured of Zimbabwe's support and co-operation during your term of office.

I also wish to express appreciation to the Director General for the comprehensive report he presented at the opening of the Council session. The report covers a number of pertinent issues, especially as they seek to advance the organisation's strategic vision for the period 2019 to 2023.

Mr President,

It is important that the policy positions, including the idea of repositioning the organisation to assist member states in implementing the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, should find practical expression at national level by being mainstreamed in the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

My government is pleased to note that the IOM is working closely in synergy, not only with member states at national level, but also with other UN agencies in the field, at the regional and sub-regional levels.

On the reform agenda, Zimbabwe also appreciates the formal and informal engagements between the Director-General and the membership. Indeed, reforms

are part of the dynamism associated with any organisation, in response to the ever-changing environment.

However, reforms are seldom events, but rather processes in which divergent views of diverse stakeholders are expressed. Sometimes, it takes time to reconcile the divergent views to reach consensus. We therefore hope that the Director-General, working with the membership, will create more space for further dialogue and accommodation, as we seek to make the organisation stronger, more effective, and fit for purpose.

Mr President, Zimbabwe appreciates the support it is receiving from the IOM in implementing programmes that are directly linked to the objectives enshrined in the GCM.

In this regard, courtesy of the resources from the Development Fund, the IOM is to support in 2020 a pilot survey on “Improving Data on the Flow and Impact of Migrant Remittances for Development in Zimbabwe”. We look forward to working closely with the organisation in this and other areas of co-operation.

Finally, Zimbabwe would like to thank the IOM and the donor community for the support we received during and after Cyclone Idai, which hit parts of our country and our neighbours early this year. We appreciate the organisation’s continued support to strengthen recovery, resilience and the search for durable solutions for the challenges faced by populations impacted by the Cyclone.

Mr President, I thank you.