

**STATEMENT ON THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IOM
TO THE GENERAL DEBATE OF 111th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Botswana aligns itself with the statement delivered by Niger on behalf of the African Group.
2. Chairperson, we wish to extend our congratulations to you and other members of the Bureau on your election to lead the 111th Session of the IOM Council. Botswana would also like to thank the outgoing Chairperson H.E. Mr Morten Jespersen, the Permanent Representative of Denmark for his leadership in the 110th IOM Council as well as his brilliant stewardship of the discussions around Resolution 1383 Working Group on the reform process focused on strengthening the Organization's senior leadership structure.
3. Botswana would like to commend the IOM on how the organisation has adopted and responded to the Covid 19 pandemic. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the Director-General and his staff for working tirelessly to ensure that the organization remains effective, operational and fit for purpose during these challenging times.
4. My delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for his report and assures him and his team of our support. We have noted in the report the IOM's continued focus on the long-standing conflict situations around the world. We share a similar concern with the D.G. about the recent developments in the SADC region especially in Mozambique where violence has caused a new wave of displacements shortly after the country's recovery from the adverse effects of Cyclone Idai in 2019.
5. As the second year of the historic adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) approaches we are very proud of the role played by IOM as the Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration aimed at providing support to Member States regarding their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM. We are therefore looking forward to the Secretary General's first

biennial report on the implementation of the Global Compact next week as well as the regional reviews in our region.

6. Furthermore, Chairperson, Botswana welcomes IOM's cooperation with other organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organization. The signing of a memorandum of understanding with GAVI alliance will go a long way towards ensuring that migrants are not left behind in accessing the much anticipated Covid-19 vaccine, once development and distribution is in full swing.

7. We note the launch of IOM Continental Strategy for Africa 2020–2024 .The strategy ushers-in a new era of renewed and strengthened cooperation with the African Union (A.U.), A.U. Regional Economic Communities, A.U. Member States as well as the U.N. system, among other key stakeholders, for better governance of African migration to foster inclusive and sustainable development in Africa which will be critical especially in the post-COVID 19 pandemic recovery.

8. Ever since independence in 1966, Botswana has endured complex and evolving migration dynamics and patterns. The country has managed to transition from a dislocated economy featuring export of migrant labour system to a transit and recipient country, attracting skilled professionals and non-skilled labour force from all over Africa and beyond.

9. Botswana is grateful for the projects undertaken courtesy of the IOM Development Fund including the following:
 - The development of the National Migration Policy
 - Botswana Migration Profile: Supporting Evidence-Based Migration-Related Policymaking and Planning in Botswana
 - Strengthening Migration Data Collection and Analysis

We look forward to more support and collaboration in future.

