



**STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE**  
**GENERATE DEBATE - 112<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL**  
**GENEVA - 29 NOVEMBER TO 1 DECEMBER, 2021**

Chair

Mr Director General

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statements made by Niger and Azerbaijan on behalf of the Africa Group and the Non-Aligned Movement respectively.

Allow me to congratulate all bureau members on their election to the Council and to assure you of Zimbabwe's full and active support.

Let me also express congratulations and sincere thanks to the Director General for his comprehensive report to this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary Council Session.

Chair, the migration landscape of today gives much cause for concern - especially given the twin ravages of climate change and pandemic : the first already a major driver of human mobility : the second beginning to manifest itself as such, against the backdrop of ongoing inequity in terms of access to vaccines and very marked differences in the pace of economic recovery

It is almost inevitable that the flow of people we see today will increase very significantly over the coming months and years.

I believe we are all agreed that the IOM has acquitted itself commendably in the face of these twin challenges, and indeed others, as, in close coordination with member states and with other UN Agencies, it has effectively deployed the tools, resources and personnel at its disposal in support of migrants-in-need.

It has earned its place as the leading agency on international migration issues as reflected in its designation as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration : significant milestones as, today, we look back on its trajectory over the past 70 years.

We look forward to the International Migration Review Forum next year and to receiving the Organisation's objective views and assessment on the implementation of the Global Compact : and indeed, its views and guidance on how, together, we can best address the various implementation gaps.

We are supportive, of course, of the administrative and organisational reforms currently under way - beginning with the most welcome appointment of the two Deputy Directors-General - and the ongoing dialogue between management and member states relating to budget reforms.

Given current challenges and the inevitability of even greater and more pressing migrant-related challenges ahead, proactive engagement on reform and on preparing the Organisation to more effectively meet those challenges, is all important. Again, you have our full support.

With specific focus on Zimbabwe, allow me to thank IOM for the strong support received with regard to advising and facilitating Zimbabwean nationals returning home within the context of the Covid pandemic. Since March 2020, close to 400 000 of our nationals have returned home - the vast majority, of course, from our neighbouring states. Most have very limited financial means and have returned to communities already hard pressed by the pandemic, drought-induced food insecurity and other challenges.

In this regard, and as we move forward, we look to IOM to partner with us, and indeed with the returnees in their districts of origin, by way of starting income-generating projects - as a path to self-sustaining development and as an incentive for them to stay.

Let me also acknowledge and thank IOM for their support with regard to the implementation of both the migration and diaspora engagement components of our National Development Strategy – NDS 1 – covering the period 2021 to 2025.

I Thank You