

## **BOTSWANA STATEMENT AT 113<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL**

Chairperson of the Council, H. E Dr Lansana Gberie

Director General, Mr António Vitorino

Honourable Ministers here present,

Your Excellencies Ambassadors, Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Allow me to express my congratulations to you, Chairperson and all Bureau members on your election to the Council and to assure you of Botswana's unwavering support to you during your term.
2. Botswana aligns herself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the African Group by the distinguished representative of Nigeria.
3. We also join other delegations in welcoming Barbados as a member of the International Organization for Migration.

**Chairperson,**

4. Botswana thanks the Director General and his team for their focused efforts to keep the organization in a state of operational effectiveness and fit for purpose. We also applaud Member States for collectively agreeing to increase the organisation's assessed contributions through the budget reform undertaken earlier this year. We are confident that will enhance the capacity of the IOM in assisting those in need of humanitarian support worldwide.
5. It is indeed pleasing to note that the IOM has started the roll-out of the Strategy on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change, 2021-2030 in order to implement a comprehensive approach to migration in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, and natural disasters.

**Chairperson,**

6. Having noted in the Human Resources Report for 2021 that the Organisation is making strides to be an inclusive workplace for its more than 17 000 global workforce, we believe that the organisation needs to do more to encourage and facilitate broader representation at the IOM especially for Non-Represented Member States such as Botswana.
7. I wish to express Botswana's profound gratitude for all the support we have received and continue to receive from the IOM. The projects currently being implemented by IOM in Botswana include, among others:
  - **The Ethical Recruitment project**
  - **The Botswana National Migration Policy and**
  - **The Diaspora Mapping Exercise**
8. We also thank the IOM for playing a critical role by supplying our border management personnel with Personal Protective Equipment at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative went a long way in protecting officers and the public from exposure to the COVID-19 virus.
9. Botswana is equally concerned about the severe impact of climate change and environmental degradation in many parts of the world, including the climate stressors and shocks which lead people to wish to migrate, sometimes unaware of the risks which await them on the and/or at their destinations. This is why at the just-ended COP 27, Botswana accepted to become the champion of the Africa Climate mobility flagship programme for knowledge and data. In this role, we will advocate for the attending of timely, disaggregated data and climate information to enable adaptation for the benefit of communities, institutions, and countries and to prevent loss and damage from climate change.

In conclusion, Botswana stands ready to collaborate with the IOM in the attainment of its objectives.

**I thank you all for your attention**