



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. JULIA IMENE-
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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN
SWITZERLAND**

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**Mr. Chairman,
Director General,
Members of the Council,
Distinguished delegates**

Namibia aligns herself with the statement delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and we take this opportunity to deliver a few general remarks in our national capacity.

Mr Chair,

We wish to extend our congratulations to you and the entire Bureau on your election. Namibia assures you of her cooperation and commitment as you continue to guide the work of the IOM Council.

Namibia joins others in welcoming Barbados as a new member of the IOM family and we echo the call made by the Director-General, during his opening remarks yesterday, for those States who are not yet members to join the IOM as soon as possible.

This is especially important as we are living in times of multiple crises which continue to displace millions of people around the world.

As States we are all affected by forced displacements, the response to the migration challenges should, therefore, be universal - anchored on the principles of international cooperation and solidarity, with all States ensuring that the IOM, the United Nations lead migration Agency, continues to execute its mandate of, among other things, aiding in the search for practical solutions and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in need.

Mr. Chair,

In addition to the various conflict situations in some parts of the world, the planet today is confronted with the triple crises of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, which all undermine our efforts to manage both the internal and external dimensions of migration adequately and effectively.

Namibia has witnessed first-hand the impact of these crises on migration as we are part of Sub-Saharan Africa, which is home to the largest number of displaced persons worldwide.

Similar to other countries in the region, Namibia is experiencing challenges to meet the needs of some of the migrants. For example, at Osire Settlement in Namibia, hosting close to 8000 asylum seekers and refugees, we are faced with food shortages.

The devastating effects of climate change in this context are clearly visible, as once fertile land has become inhospitable and weather patterns have become unpredictable at Osire Settlement.

We call on the IOM, and other UN agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Food Programme, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to work in unison in order to provide assistance to States and comprehensively address food security challenges in the context of migration.

Mr. Chair,

It is clear that effective solutions to forced displacement around the world can only be achieved by addressing the root causes of such

displacements. We again call on those responsible for conflict situations around the world to return to dialogue and resolve their differences through diplomatic and peaceful means.

Similarly States, especially the largest contributors of greenhouse gases, must do more to reduce their greenhouse emissions. While we appreciate the critical importance of climate finance for developing countries, including the **recent establishment of the loss and damage fund at COP27**, we wish to emphasize that provision of sustainable climate finance should not be a substitute for our responsibilities to reduce greenhouse emissions, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Finally, Namibia commends the Director-General and his entire team at the IOM Secretariat for the operational support they continue to provide to States around the world.

Namibia is one of the countries that has and continues to receive financial and technical assistance from the IOM. **In this regard, we are happy to announce that Namibia's National Migration Policy, which was developed with the assistance of the IOM, will be launched by the IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa on 07 December 2022.**

Namibia will continue to foster this positive relationship with the IOM in our efforts to address migration issues at the national, regional, and international levels.

I thank you Mr. Chair.