



**SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STATEMENT  
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 113<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) COUNCIL**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 12**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**30- NOVEMBER - 02 DECEMBER 2022**

**GENEVA**

Chairperson,

South Africa seizes this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Lansana Gberie, Permanent Representative for Sierra Leone as the Chairperson of the Bureau of the IOM. South Africa wishes to align itself with a statement delivered on behalf of the Africa Group.

My delegation appreciates the Director-General's leadership in steering the organizational reform process for the IOM that is modern and fit for purpose in the increasing complexities of migration experienced around the world. My country also appreciates the constructive negotiations on budget reform that led to the attainment of the decisions of 28 June 2022. It was an epitome of multilateralism whereby every Member State input and concern were carefully considered given the devastations of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current global economic crisis.

South Africa supported the vision and commitment for the development and adoption of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration as a comprehensive global policy to strengthen migration governance. Notwithstanding, South Africa still believes a clear differentiation between a regular and irregular migrant is important to clarify, particularly as it relates to (a) responsibilities of sending states, transit states; and receiving (destination) states: (b) access to basic services; (c) economic realities of receiving states; and (d) obligations of countries of origin to receive their own nationals.

This becomes of particular importance in the view of the negative impact of Covid-19 in the global economy which has led to a shift in priorities and constrain vulnerability reduction. Similarly, the impact of climate change on resource scarcity and its potential to induce of populations in vulnerable situations compounds the need to have clarity on these two types of migrants.

Chairperson,

None of our country is immune to the devastations of natural disasters, and this year alone, the world experienced extreme weather patterns of floods, landslides, droughts, wildfires and winds that destroyed critical infrastructure and agricultural production.

We therefore, need to invest time in finding solutions to the climate induced migration and those solutions lie in building local and national adaptive capacity and strengthening resilience to

prevent, prepare for and respond to displacement as the primary responsibility is with the countries affected.

Earlier this year, South Africa experienced devastating floods in the coastal provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape which sadly destroyed homes, killed more than 400 citizens, temporarily displaced families and also destroyed critical infrastructure required for service delivery with an estimated damage repair cost of approximately R17bn.

In response to the crisis, the government established an inclusive national government response through the Disaster Management Act, bringing together the National, Provincial and local Spheres Coordination Mechanisms, including Civil Society amongst others. Through this mechanism, South Africa was able to mobilise resources in response to the devastating disaster, towards reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure as well as humanitarian support for the affected communities.

Chairperson,

South Africa also believes that solutions to the rapid impact of climate change and food insecurity should be centered in addressing the adverse drivers and adoption of preventative measures that are comprehensive, collaborative, coordination and unwavering commitment of all Member States to improve governance and sustainable resilience at local, national, regional and international level.

Within the continent, South Africa participate in initiatives to make significant investments towards climate resilience and adaptation strategies, within the limited capacity and resources. The recently held Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFoM7) continue to be the one of the Forum to shape the discourse on migration governance in African.

In conclusion, South Africa would like to emphasis the seriousness of the topic at hand and urge Member States to centre solutions within a framework of strengthening sustainable resilience and reduction of the vulnerability of displaced persons.

South Africa noted the report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Standing Committee and is concerned that the challenges of irregular migration are only attributed to the pull factors rather than the push

factors of forced migration. South Africa believes that as Member States, we have the obligations and responsibility to respect, protect, promote, and fulfill the human rights of persons. We maintain that the livelihood of persons should not deteriorate in a manner that they resort to illegal, dangerous and unsafe paths. As a preventative measure to curb on irregular migration, South Africa encourage dialogue on these matters so that we preserve the dignity of our people.

I thank you.