

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
114th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 10 GENERAL DEBATE TO BE
DELIVERED BY Amb. & PR Marie Chantal RWAKAZINA

Chairperson,

1. Rwanda has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group on the general debate. Allow me to begin by expressing my personal and the African Group's warm congratulations to the new chairperson of the Council H.E Dr. Katharina Stasch, Permanent Representative of the Germany and the entire team of the bureau and wish her and the Bureau success in delivering on the mandate of the Council. Let me take this opportunity to appreciate the outgoing Chairperson of the Council H.E Dr. Lansana Gberie, Ambassador of Sierra Leone and his team for dedicated work and collaboration during his tenure.

Chairperson,

2. The African Group thank the Director General of the International Organization for Migration Ms. Amy Pope for presentation of her report providing preliminary update on efforts that IOM is taking to deliver on the promise of migration, while supporting the world's most vulnerable. The Group took note of the global consultations that have brought to the fore several programmatic priority areas, including saving lives and protecting people on the move; driving solutions to displacement, with a particular focus on climate migration responses; and facilitating regular migration pathways.
3. The Group commends IOM's initiative of saving lives and protecting people on the move as the Organization has been at the front line of responses to crises across the world providing life-saving humanitarian assistance, protection and movement assistances to the people on the move as well as responding to new challenges posing devastating impacts on local populations. The year 2023 has seen millions forced out of their homes by sudden disasters and IOM's strong operational presence indicated its capacity to quickly and directly respond to rapid-onset disasters, as well as support wider humanitarian responses.

4. On driving solutions to displacement, the Africa Group appreciates IOM's understanding on Migration as not only a route out of crisis situations but also a means to build resilience and promote development in communities affected by climate change, underdevelopment, conflict and instability. Underscoring the reason why IOM is working closely with Member States and argues for concrete engagements with civil society organizations and communities to building solutions that improve resilience and enable communities to adapt to a rapidly changing and unstable world.
5. The Africa Group further notes IOM's positive involvement in the pilot initiative under the Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement to develop State-led and costed durable solution strategies and funding frameworks in 15 countries. Applauding the Organization's support to the United Nations country team leadership, including with secondments, to coordinate durable solutions efforts at national and regional levels. Also encouraging the current discussions on institutional partnership agreements and frameworks with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Habitat, the World Food Programme, and others, focusing on intensifying collaboration around the Action Agenda.

Chairperson,

6. The Group welcomes IOM's scaling up engagement with academia to expand actionable analysis. Together with Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration having launched the first Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS). The report offers people centered and operationally relevant evidence and analysis that enables displaced people to move toward durable solutions. Further advocating for a shift from focusing on "when displacement ends" to "when solutions start" and illuminates some of the key factors influencing the solutions process, such as the length of displacement, housing, and climate change impact. Appreciating such a unique combination of quantitative and qualitative data which includes input from focus group discussions with over 570 displaced people, returnees and host community representatives in 10 countries, and from consultations with Member States.

7. On regional climate change action, the group applauds the IOM and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the support to the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change which was signed by Ministers from governments across Africa in September at the Africa Climate Summit 2023. Such a government-led, comprehensive and action-oriented framework that practically and effectively addresses climate-induced mobility and the needs, gaps and opportunities of human mobility has to be collectively supported. Noting that during this Summit, IOM hosted a side event in partnership with the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration to invite development partners and practitioners to support the implementation of programmes that address the challenges of climate-induced mobility.
8. The Africa Group further appreciates IOM's partnership with the Office of the African Union (AU) Chairperson's Youth Envoy and the African Union Commission's Women, Gender and Youth Directorate in hosting the Continental Migration and Youth Consultation in August 2023. The three days of discussions resulted into reflections and critical analysis of Africa's most pressing migration issues by youth stakeholders and advocates resulted in the development of the Joint AU-IOM Youth Declaration and Call to Action on Migration and Youth on the African Continent.

Chairperson,

9. The Group commends IOM new phase of the Cooperation on Migration and Partnerships to Achieve Sustainable Solutions (COMPASS) as confirmed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the period 2024–2027. Considering that this new phase has played a significant role in providing protection services to over 83,000 migrants across 14 partner countries, including safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration and that over 2,800 State and non-State actors have benefited from continuous capacity development in migration management, protection and specialized protection assistance.
10. The African group understands there is need for continuous collective collaboration in the implementation these initiatives in addressing migration including emerging complex challenges and reiterates its firm support to the management of IOM from country, regional and international levels.

I thank you.