



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

STATEMENT BY

HONOURABLE ANNA MARIA MOKGETHI

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE 114th SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL

ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) COUNCIL



- Chairperson,
 - Honourable Ministers,
 - Director General,
 - Excellencies,
 - Distinguished Delegates,
1. At the outset, I wish to express my delegation's heartfelt congratulations to you Madam Chair, on your election as Chairperson of the Council Bureau and assure you of Botswana's support during your tenure. We also commend the previous Chairperson, Ambassador Lansana Gberie of Sierra Leone, for his dedication to the Bureau's work.
 2. We further take this opportunity to once again congratulate Ms Amy E. Pope, as she attends her first Council Session as Director General of the IOM following assumption of the post on 1st October 2023. We wish her a very successful tenure in driving forward the mandate of the Organisation.

Chairperson,

3. Botswana commends the IOM for its focus on climate change and human mobility issues, particularly at a time when the frequency and intensity of climate-induced hazards are increasing. Deliberations on these concerns in the High-Level Segment of this Council are timely and relevant, and we hope this will result in our collective commitment to urgently work towards bold and coordinated actions to address the impact of climate change on human mobility.
4. Climate change has created a new normal of unpredictable rainfall patterns in Botswana, exacerbating the unreliability of rainfed agriculture. Drought is another persistent problem Botswana faces, mitigation of which leads to the erosion of resources available for socioeconomic growth. However, we have entered into strategic partnerships with local and international

stakeholders to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and implement appropriate adaptation strategies.

5. In 2024, Botswana is scheduled to receive assistance from the IOM in respect to the Climate Change and Human Mobility Strategy. The Strategy will support Government efforts to address gaps in the National Climate Change Policy and the national disaster risk reduction strategy.

Chairperson

6. At the regional level, Botswana hopes to positively contribute to the discourse of migration governance through our Chairship of the Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFoM), which we recently hosted in Gaborone from 31 October to 2 November 2023.
7. One notable outcome of the meeting was the agreement by Member States that greater effort should be made towards improvement of the migration regulatory environment. This will facilitate free movement in its entirety, particularly the right of entry, right of residence, and right of establishment, as well as the need to align trade and migration strategies with the African Continental Free Trade Area and reduce barriers to doing business on the Continent in order to attract investors.
8. I wish to express my sincere gratitude for all the support Botswana has received and continues to receive from the IOM. In that regard, we note the following events that took place this year:
 - In August 2023, with the support of the IOM Development Fund, the Government of Botswana undertook the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) assessment, and the report was launched. The MGI assessment assisted in finalising the National Migration Policy and its accompanying Action Plan that commenced in 2016.

9. The Trafficking in Persons project was launched by the Minister of Justice on 17th October 2023. The project aims to strengthen efforts to address Trafficking in Persons in Botswana in line with relevant national, regional and international frameworks.
10. Before I conclude Chair, allow me to put forward two points which Botswana deems very important for consolidation of existing efforts to advance the migration discourse in the country.
11. The first is our desire to have the IOM country office in Botswana upgraded from a satellite of the regional office in Pretoria, South Africa, to a full-fledged IOM Mission. The other is to see more Botswana citizens employed, especially in professional ranks. Botswana is on the list of the 36 Non-Represented Member States, countries that, according to the IOM, have no staff members working in professional and international roles.
12. It is our sincere hope and expectation that these points, will receive your very active consideration.

I thank you.
