



**THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE,
WTO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA**

THE GAMBIA STATEMENT IOM 114TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL,

27 NOVEMBER 2023.

ITEM 10 – GENERAL DEBATE

Chairperson of the council

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

The delegation of The Gambia congratulates H.E Dr. Katharina Stasch, Permanent Representative of the Germany on her election as the new chairperson of the Council and wishes her and the Bureau success in their tenure of office. We take this opportunity to commend H.E Dr. Lansana Gberie, Ambassador of Sierra Leone, the outgoing Chairperson of the Council for his devoted work and leadership during his tenure of office.

We also thank the Director General of IOM, Ms. Amy Pope for her comprehensive report and assure her of our full support.

We express our appreciation to the IOM for the organization of the 114th session of the Council and the reports and documents provided to the delegations.

The Gambia subscribes to the statement deliver by the delegation of Rwanda on behalf of the Africa Group.



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Excellencies,

The Gambia acknowledges that the primary duty to protect lies with States, and so we remain committed to promote the civil and economic rights of migrants. Accordingly, the Government of The Gambia is committed to international cooperation and collaboration in migration management with partners including the IOM. The country's first National Migration Policy (NMP) was launched in December 2020. The objective of the Policy amongst others is to provide a national framework for migration management, enhance better coordination and definition of responsibilities of stakeholders involved in migration management, and guidance on the reviewing of national migration legislation to address current migration challenges.

In this regard, we wish to commend the European Union for the collaboration with our Government in support of the development of both a National Migration Programme and a National Migration Strategy for the operationalization of the National Migration Policy. The Strategy aims to provide a national framework for migration management; and coordinate and define the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders involved in migration management.

As a beneficiary country of the IOM development fund, The Gambia also commends the donors and the IOM for the support to our project request and encourages the partners and donors to increase their contribution to fund for the



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interest of developing and least developed countries in migration management and governance.

Distinguished delegates,

Migration management depends on a comprehensive collection and analysis of relevant migration data. Therefore, we welcome the initiative to establish the Global Data Institute in order to bring together the Global Migration Data Analysis Center and displacement tracking matrix. This will help member countries address the global challenges requiring real-time data and solid analysis to make informed decisions regarding migration crisis hence it is a critical tool for access to safe, regular, orderly migration, and a solid database, with real-time briefs and analytical products, to support policy and decision-makers.

We also welcome the inclusion of Climate change into migration management. The climate crisis induces displacement of people and renders risks to live in certain environments.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The Gambia supports improved Labour pathways which offers an innovative way to leverage the skills and talents of migrant people while harnessing the potential to create opportunities and prosperity for all. We also call on IOM and donor



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partners to increase support to States on reintegration of migrant returnees in a sustainable manner.

In conclusion, we call on all to see the positive side of Migration and consider it as a factor of innovation, prosperity, and sustainable development. Migrants do help drive economic growth, cultural and humanitarian benefits for both migrants and host societies. It is therefore important to improve opportunities for legal migration and address level strategies while respecting national competencies and policies and addressing the root causes of irregular migration.

Thank you

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