

**MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT**



**The Republic of Uganda**

**HON BEATRICE ATIM ODWONG REMARKS AT THE 114<sup>TH</sup>  
COUNCIL SESSION OF IOM**

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**GENEVA**

Esteemed Chair, Director General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

We extend our warm congratulations to Ambassador Katharina STASCH of Germany on assuming the chairmanship of the council, and to the vice chairpersons, Permanent Representatives from the Republic of Korea and Peru. We also welcome Permanent Representative of Tunisia as the Rapporteur.

We would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to Ms. Amy Pope for taking up the role of Director General. We look forward to working with her and are confident that under her leadership, the IOM will continue to make significant strides in addressing the complex challenges of migration.

Distinguished delegates, Uganda is a nation deeply impacted by the critical intersection of climate change and human mobility in our region. The East and Horn of Africa, to which we belong, grapples with the undeniable reality that climate change is a primary catalyst for human displacement.

Uganda, as affirmed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), currently stands as the third-largest refugee hosting country globally and the largest in Africa, sheltering over 1.5 million refugees. This influx is, in part, attributed to environmental changes in the East and Horn of Africa, including prolonged droughts, desertification, flash floods, and land degradation—challenges that are poised to intensify with the looming threat of climate change.

In navigating this crisis, Uganda's Open-Door approach to refugee and Migrant settlement transcends viewing refugees and Migrants merely as humanitarian obligations. Instead, we recognize the potential for these settlements to bring about improved services and infrastructure that benefit both refugees and our resident communities. Refugees and Migrants in Uganda have been integrated

into the host communities where they fully participate in the economy and benefit from social services.

Addressing this multifaceted challenge demands substantial budgets and the establishment of coherent regulatory frameworks.

In expressing our gratitude, we commend the International Organization for Migration for its pivotal role in responding swiftly to global crises, providing life-saving aid, protection, and movement support to those in transit. The operational strength of the IOM in addressing sudden disasters and contributing to broader humanitarian efforts is truly commendable.

We appreciate IOM's support for the Kampala Declaration on Climate and Migration, emphasizing the critical importance of recognizing the nexus between climate change and human mobility. As we engage in discussions on climate change, we must inherently include considerations of human displacement.

We salute IOM for its pivotal role in addressing diverse challenges and implementing impactful interventions within the Uganda . The collaboration with IOM has significantly contributed to the well-being and resilience of Ugandan communities.

IOM has done commendable work in Refugee Resettlement ensures safe relocation, particularly for refugees from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Furthermore, tailored Emergency Preparedness and Response initiatives underscore IOM's commitment to mitigating displacement impacts. Uganda applauds IOM's dedication to Migration Health, Labour Migration, and Human Development, fostering sustainable well-being.

Migrant Protection and Assistance, including counter-trafficking, showcase paramount efforts. Transition and Recovery, alongside Immigration and Border Management, demonstrate holistic commitment.

In conclusion, Uganda reaffirms its commitment to working with the IOM and other member states to address the multifaceted challenges of migration. We believe that through collective action and shared responsibility, we can ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration that respects the rights and dignity for all

**I Thank You**

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**