



ZIMBABWE

NATIONAL STATEMENT

BY THE

**MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL
WELFARE**

HON. JULY MOYO (MP)

AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE

114TH IOM COUNCIL

ON

**CLIMATE IMPACT ON HUMAN MOBILITY: A GLOBAL CALL
FOR SOLUTIONS**

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CICG CONFERENCE CENTRE, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

**Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished delegates**

Thank you for giving Zimbabwe the floor. I wish to begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation for the opportunity to engage in this High-Level Segment under the theme "**Climate impact on human mobility: a global call for solutions**". We welcome this very topical subject for discussion which comes at a time that the world is grappling with the negative impact of climate change induced disasters that have resulted in displacement of large numbers of people in recent years globally.

Chairperson, from the outset, Zimbabwe acknowledges that the impact of climate change makes it difficult for people to live in their usual habitats and forces them to move due to an increase in extreme weather conditions. The global solutions that should be proffered must therefore be based on the root causes of climate change and the world needs to urgently take stock of these in order to find lasting solutions and address related challenges.

Chairperson, there is no doubt that climate change has been caused by an increase in human activities in production, consumption and industrialisation that have led to global warming due to huge amounts of greenhouse gases added to the atmosphere.

The global solutions we are discussing today should therefore be aimed at dealing with the climate injustices that currently prevail, recognizing that countries in the global north have largely contributed to the disastrous and human-induced climate change while countries in the global south continue to suffer its extreme consequences. It is essential that countries with larger carbon prints than us developing countries, should act proportionally, or at least do so, in tandem with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Chairperson, at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, in Egypt, exactly one year ago, world leaders acknowledged how developing countries have been negatively affected by the impact of climate change. Furthermore, at the inaugural Africa Climate Summit held in Kenya in September 2023, our Heads of State and Government acknowledged that climate change is amongst the greatest

challenges facing humanity; that Africa is warming faster than the rest of the world and, if unabated, will have severe consequences on economic growth and our general well-being.

The Nairobi Declaration further noted that “Africa is not traditionally responsible for global warming and yet bears the brunt of its effects on lives, livelihoods and economies”. This calls for all of us to take immediate and concerted efforts to address the causes of climate change.

Chairperson, the solutions to mitigate the impact of climate change should be both at the global and localized level, acknowledging that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions. My delegation notes with regret, that several solutions that have been proffered in the past have not worked because of a lack of commitment and action.

At the global level, the issue of climate financing remains key and concerted efforts should be made towards mobilizing resources for developing countries to be able to deal with natural disasters. This is mainly because mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and climate technology need adequate funds to function effectively and

to yield the desired results. Regrettably, despite the commitments made at COP27 towards the establishment of a loss and damage fund, not much traction has been seen in this regard, yet we continue to hear promises that are not followed through by action.

We therefore call upon the developed countries to walk the talk and honour their commitment to climate financing as a sustainable solution. At this juncture, we reiterate our calls for enhanced international partnership and cooperation to fight illicit financial flows, which continue to siphon huge amounts of resources out of developing economies, that could partially offset the financing gap.

Chairperson, at the national level, the Government of Zimbabwe launched its Migration Policy in August 2023. The Policy seeks to prevent and mitigate factors that drive environmental migration; and to mainstream environment and climate change frameworks within migration management. In recent years, floods and droughts are becoming more frequent and the country has witnessed flooding in Tsholotsho between 2016 and 2017, Cyclone Eline and most recently Cyclone Idai, which devastated Chipinge and Chimanimani districts in 2019 and the recurring El Niño effects which have caused droughts. Going forward, Zimbabwe will pursue

the implementation of regular monitoring systems for evolving risks and vulnerabilities as well as the development of an Evacuation Policy.

Chairperson, at the localized level, solutions to the climate change crisis should include geospatial planning surveys to inform communities on areas susceptible to natural disasters to help develop prevention and mitigation measures. In addition, indigenous knowledge systems and climate proofing should continue to be utilized in order to build resilience in the face of natural disasters. Our President launched a climate proofing system in agriculture in all the over 35 000 villages led by our traditional leaders. This increases resilience by households.

As I conclude my remarks, my delegation wishes to reiterate that solutions towards addressing the unprecedented increase in human mobility as a result of the negative effects of climate change can only be found through sustainable climate financing. We appreciate the unearmarked funding that is availed to the IOM and wish to commend the generosity of the countries enumerated by the DG in her report to Council, which include Germany, the chair of the 114th IOM Council, as the third largest donor availing unearmarked

funding. This gives the Director General the flexibility to channel resources to areas most in need. We hope that the leadership of these countries will persuade other donors to increase their unearmarked contributions and unlock more resources.

Chairperson, I wish to dissuade that as a collective, let us not politicize the climate change agenda. Humanity stands threatened by the harsh realities of climate change and we need to come together and collaborate in meaningful ways to save the world.

I thank you.