

## **BOTSWANA STATEMENT AT 115<sup>th</sup> IOM COUNCIL**

1. Thank you, Chairperson, for giving us the floor. Botswana aligns herself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the African Group by the distinguished representative of Sierra Leone.
2. Chairperson, allow me to begin by congratulating you, Your Excellency and all the members of the Bureau on your election to preside over the council in the next 12 months. We also extend our gratitude to the outgoing Bureau led by Her Excellency Ambassador Katharina Stasch for the excellent manner in which they led the council. Please be assured of Botswana's continued support and cooperation.

### **Chairperson,**

3. From the outset, we wish to recognise the role played by the IOM in protecting the lives of people on the move. In the past year, IOM has confronted severe humanitarian crises throughout the world, including in regions like Sudan, Ukraine and eastern Democratic Republic of where millions of people individuals have been internally displaced due to protracted conflict.
4. Furthermore, we commend the IOM for its proactive engagement in addressing the critical nexus between human mobility and climate change. The IOM's collaboration with Member States to enhance adaptive capacities and mitigate the risks of irregular migration is essential in navigating the challenges posed by our changing climate. We particularly acknowledge the IOM's commitment to implementing frameworks stemming from the recent COP29, which provide a crucial roadmap for collective action on this pressing global issue.
5. We further acknowledge the projected total expenditure by the IOM of almost 4 billion on its programmes by the end of 2024, and note with interest, the rise in private sector contributions. Diversifying funding sources is important for the Organisation's sustainability, and the increased engagement with the private sector represents a positive

step in this direction. However, we encourage the IOM to further expand its partnerships with the private sector in Africa, not just for the purpose of investment, but to find innovative solutions necessary for addressing the continent's unique migration challenges.

**Chairperson,**

6. We commend the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for undertaking extensive policy and institutional reforms to enhance its operational efficiency. These reforms are particularly timely as the Organisation assumes increasing responsibilities in facilitating orderly and humane migration management, as reflected in the IOM Strategic Plan 2024-2028. We are confident that these efforts will strengthen the IOM's capacity to support the world's most vulnerable populations and address the evolving challenges of global migration.
7. We acknowledge the ongoing implementation of budget reforms outlined in Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance Resolution 31 of June 2022, aimed at investing in the core structure of the IOM. As this resolution is now in its second anniversary, we are keen to appreciate its progress as well as impact. We therefore look forward to updates on the key achievements of this reform, including challenges encountered during implementation, and how these have been addressed. This information will be valuable in assessing the effectiveness of the reforms and their contribution to the IOM's overall operational efficiency and ability to fulfill its mandate.
8. We commend the IOM for its leadership as the Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration. The IOM's collaboration with other UN agencies, governments, and stakeholders to organize the second regional review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Addis Ababa last month is a testament to its commitment to facilitating constructive dialogue and action on migration. We are confident that the conclusions reached at this meeting will provide valuable input as we collectively prepare for the second International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in 2026.

9. As a transit and destination country in Southern Africa, Botswana has experienced an influx of migrants over the years, which has presented challenges related to irregular migration. However, we are committed to addressing this by introducing more flexible and regular migration pathways. This commitment is demonstrated by our efforts to facilitate legal migration, such as the introduction of visas at ports of entry in and the launch of an online visa application system in the past few years. We believe that these measures will help to manage migration flows more effectively while also promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration.
  
10. In conclusion chairperson, we remain optimistic that the IOM, as it continues its commendable efforts to diversify its workforce and increase representation, will further expand employment opportunities for Botswana citizens.
  
11. We express our sincere gratitude for the ongoing support that Botswana receives from the IOM.

I thank you.