



MALAWI STATEMENT ON THE GENERAL DEBATE: 115TH SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL

1. Thank you, Chairperson, for giving me the floor. Let me begin by extending our congratulations to You, Excellency, and the entire team on your election and also acknowledge Ambassador Katharina Starsch and her team for ably steering the work of the Council during her tenure.
2. Malawi aligns herself with the statement delivered by Sierra Leone on behalf of the Africa Group.
3. Chairperson, we express our gratitude to the Director General for her comprehensive report to the Council. It indeed has been a year of challenges particularly on the humanitarian nexus. We applaud the DG's commitment shown, thus far, in ensuring that IOM delivers on its mandate despite the challenges.
4. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been a steadfast partner to the Government of Malawi in addressing critical migration challenges while promoting regional integration and development. Focused on fostering safe, orderly, and dignified migration, IOM's interventions target border regions and key migration corridors. By supporting the timely processing of travellers' data, IOM facilitates regional trade, improves migration governance, and ensures that migrants are not only protected but also empowered to access essential services. In doing so, IOM has helped the Government of Malawi minimize cross-border crimes and optimize migration's contribution to socioeconomic development. We hope IOM will continue to collaborate with us and continue to complement our Government's efforts in this regard.

5. Chairperson, saving and protecting people on the move is of utmost priority to Malawi considering that human trafficking is a challenge which must be tackled at all costs as it is degrading and dehumanising. As regards Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Malawi with assistance from IOM has deployed the DTM in 3 border districts which are critical for internal and cross-border migration.
6. Chairperson, Malawi believes that facilitating pathways for regular migration will assist in creating and improving regular, orderly and safe migration and this is being done through an improved Labour Migration Governance. Malawi recognizes the importance of labour migration for economic development and therefore has commenced with support from IOM the drafting of the National Migration Policy, Labour Migration Policy and other labour migration regulations and policies. In May 2024, Malawi, developed and validated the Employment (Labour Migration) Regulations. These will strengthen the regulatory frameworks to facilitate safe labour mobility while protecting the rights and welfare of migrant workers, especially in transit and destination areas. Along the same vein, we request the IOM to continue its cooperation with the ILO to strengthen Labour Migration narratives.
7. Chairperson, considering that Malawi has lately been a victim of climate change related disasters, we found it imperative to establish Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter Support. During crises such as Tropical Cyclone Freddy, IOM has played a critical role in coordinating disaster responses. By providing CCCM and shelter support, we have ensured that displaced populations are housed in safe and dignified conditions, receiving the assistance they need to recover and rebuild their lives. This compliments government efforts to ensure that displaced persons are assisted accordingly. However, climate change continues to affect Malawi and we look forward to more collaboration on efforts to mitigate climate change induced migration challenges within and across borders.

8. Chairperson, data is important for formulating evidence-based policies to govern the migration narrative. The Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) implemented with IOM support, is assisting us in enhancing migration management and it is operational at all major points of entry across Malawi. This advanced system enables border authorities to efficiently collect and analyse traveller data in real-time, facilitating better border control, reducing irregular migration, and improving security measures.
9. Malawi is committed to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and IOM is a key partner in supporting Malawi's implementation of the GCM. By providing technical expertise and resources, IOM is helping Malawi operationalize its GCM National Implementation Plan, ensuring adherence to international commitments and alignment with national development goals.
10. Chairperson, provision of health services for all is key and a fundamental human right. With support from IOM, Malawi is implementing Health Initiatives for Migrant Communities to improve the health and well-being of migrants and vulnerable populations, particularly in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). These programs, tailored to migrant communities and youth, seek to promote awareness, provide essential health services, and address unique challenges faced by these groups.
11. Finally, Chairperson, through these comprehensive efforts, IOM reinforces Malawi's capacity to manage migration effectively, improve the livelihoods of migrants, and strengthen the country's integration within the Southern African region. IOM's work aligns with both national priorities and international frameworks, highlighting the organization's commitment to creating a safer and more inclusive migration

landscape in Malawi. We look forward to continued cooperation and support from IOM on migration.

12. I thank you.