



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**115TH SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL**

**26-28 November 2024**

**STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 12**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**H.E JULIA IMENE-CHANDURU**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN  
GENEVA AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN  
SWITZERLAND**

1. Thank you, Chairperson, for granting me the floor. Namibia would like to thank the Director General for her report highlighting the International Organization for Migration (IOM) activities in 2024. We noted several key initiatives, including assistance for internally displaced persons, promoting safe international movement, implementing durable solutions programming, and collaborating with UN partners. Furthermore, we acknowledge the IOM's commitment to integrity, transparency, accountability, and a focus on the well-being of its workforce.
2. Namibia welcomes the World Migration Report 2024, highlighting the vital role of international migration in fostering human development and economic growth. The Report reveals a remarkable 650 percent increase in international remittances, rising from 128 billion US dollars to 831 billion US dollars between 2000 and 2022. This data underscores the significant impact of migrant remittances, which have now surpassed foreign direct investment in supporting the GDP of developing nations. Such findings provide valuable insights into how harnessing migration can drive progress and prosperity.
3. Chairperson, it is essential to acknowledge that international migration plays a vital role in human development, yet we continue to grapple with significant challenges. Issues such as war, cross-border conflicts, prolonged displacement, climate change, and disease outbreaks have left many people vulnerable and struggling. The International Organization for Migration's dedication to tackling the root causes of displacement, protecting those in need, and facilitating safe and regular migration pathways is commendable.
4. As we face the reality of approximately 281 million international migrants around the globe, it's heartbreaking to acknowledge that 117 million individuals have been displaced due to conflict, violence, disasters, and other dire circumstances. The high levels of disaster displacement remain a pressing issue. This alarming figure highlights an escalating crisis that demands immediate action.
5. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) understands the profound challenges that communities are facing, particularly in the context of climate change. Through thoughtful policy and programs implemented at various levels, from international to local, IOM is dedicated to alleviating the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities. Together, we can strive to create a safer, more stable future and reduce the risk of further displacement for those affected.

6. Chairperson, before I conclude, I want to express our profound gratitude for the recently approved project on *Strengthening Namibia's Labour Market by Conducting a National Occupational Skills Audit Survey*, to be funded through the IOM Development Fund. The Skills Audit Survey is crucial for Namibia's socio-economic development and effective governance of labour migration. We have noticed that the current funding is inadequate to conduct the survey on a national scale. Namibia would greatly appreciate IOM assistance in securing additional funding or identifying other donor agencies that can support Namibia in ensuring this project is appropriately funded.

I thank you.