



Republic of Rwanda
Embassy to Switzerland
and Permanent Mission
to the United Nations
Office - GENEVA

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION 115th SESSION OF THE
COUNCIL**

STATEMENT ON GENERAL DEBATE: ITEM 12

TO BE DELIVERED BY RWANDA

Speaking time: 3 Minutes

Thank you, Chairperson.

1. Rwanda aligns itself with the statement delivered by Siera Leone on behalf of the Africa Group and joins the Africa Group in thanking the Director General for her report and for the key achievements of the Organization in her first year in office.
2. I am delivering this statement in national capacity.

Chairperson,

3. Migration today has risen and will continue to rise in the coming decades. This calls for humanitarian-development-peace nexus activities to address humanitarian needs, engage in long-term development initiatives and support peacebuilding efforts.
4. Rwanda's past history as one of the leading producers of refugees has taught us what it means to be displaced and fully understands the plight of those seeking safety and opportunity. This has greatly shaped our approach to migration and asylum.
5. Rwanda will continue to stand ready to contribute to global efforts to saving lives and protecting people on the move.

6. Rwanda has also established a visa-free regime to facilitate the movement of persons which can contribute to safe migration. In this regard, Rwanda has ranked top in Africa in visa openness, a position it has maintained since 2023 due to its visa-free regime, according to the latest report on Africa Visa Openness.
7. We commend the continued collaboration of the Organisation with partners to reduce human suffering and uphold the dignity and rights of crisis-affected individuals.

Chairperson,

8. On facilitating pathways for regular migration, Rwanda has ratified, among others, the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Protocol on Free Movement of Persons and Goods to facilitate and increase the movement of Africans within Africa, while enhancing their rights to entry, residence, and establishment in AU member States.
9. Other initiative to open opportunities for regular migration in Rwanda includes, but not limited to, the move to enactment of a law that will stream line labor export and development policy; to encourage regular migration as opposed to irregular migration as well as bilateral labor mobility agreements such as that signed between Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates.
10. We further welcome IOM's assessment on prospects for skills mobility in collaboration with the World Bank and reiterate Rwanda's commitments to continued cooperation with the Organization, to supporting vulnerable populations and fulfilling the promise of migration.

I thank you.