



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

**HONOURABLE ESTHER DAVINIA ANYAKUN,
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

OF

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

AT THE

**THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT ON REGULAR MIGRATION DURING
THE
115TH COUNCIL SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION**

26TH NOVEMBER, 2024

GENEVA

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Chairperson of the Council,
Excellencies, Heads of Governments,
Honourable Ministers,
Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to address this distinguished gathering at the High-Level Segment on “*Regular migration pathways: A global call for action*”. This session comes at a critical moment when the world seeks innovative and sustainable solutions to advance safe, orderly, and regular migration.

I wish to extend my congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Bureau.

I thank the Director General, Amy Pope, for her exemplary leadership and commitment to the work of the International Organization for Migration.

I appreciate the support IOM has extended to Uganda, particularly in our role as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China

I wish to make the following points:

First, on Regular Migration Progress, Uganda is proud to champion regional collaboration on migration policies. Through protocols under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community, free movement for labor, goods, and services has been fostered. Specific initiatives such as validated

standard operating procedures for disaster-displaced persons between Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia underscore our commitment to addressing migration challenges holistically.

We commend the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance, which enables safe cross-border mobility for livestock and herders. This adaptation mechanism not only strengthens livelihoods but also ensures regional resilience to environmental challenges.

Uganda is following through the implementation of the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change, the first regional framework to comprehensively address climate-induced migration.

Furthermore, Uganda has embraced labor mobility as a key development tool. The Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration (RMFM), which Uganda now chairs, exemplifies our dedication to harmonizing labor migration policies across East and the Horn of Africa.

Second, on Addressing Irregular Migration and Protecting Vulnerable Populations, Uganda remains steadfast in its open-door policy, hosting over 1.7 million refugees, Migrants and asylum seekers fleeing war, persecution and natural disasters. Our robust frameworks, grounded in relevant international laws, continue to set a benchmark for reception and protection.

We also confront irregular migration, such as human trafficking, with a multi-agency approach. Uganda's Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (PTIP) Act is complemented by mobile tracking applications, referral guidelines, and collaborative international protocols. These interventions ensure that victims are protected while perpetrators are brought to justice.

Third, on Enhancing Safe and Regular Migration Pathways, Uganda has signed Bilateral Labor Migration Agreements (BLMAs) with countries like the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar have safeguarded the rights of Ugandan migrant workers abroad. However, we recognize the need to negotiate additional agreements focused on

high-skilled labor sectors for increased economic returns. Consular support services, including legal aid and emergency repatriation, remain critical pillars in protecting our citizens.

Fourth, on Leveraging Data for Migration Policy, Uganda recognizes that Effective migration governance hinges on robust data systems. We underscore the need for enhanced capacity in migration data collection and analysis. Additionally, with IOM's technical support, we can better align national policies with the Global Compact for Migration and promote regional collaboration for safe migration pathways.

Finally, Uganda calls for a concerted global effort to align policies, mobilize resources, and build regional frameworks that facilitate safe and orderly migration. We urge Member States to leverage platforms like the IOM to coordinate actions, share best practices, and champion migration as a force for development.

As we continue to integrate migrants into our communities by providing access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities among other benefits, I wish to re-affirm Uganda's commitment to promoting inclusive and dignified migration policies.

Together, let us advance sustainable solutions to the challenges of human mobility and uphold our shared responsibility to create pathways that leave no one behind.

I THANK YOU.