



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT

BY

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**AT THE 99TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

29 NOVEMBER 2010

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

- **Mr. President,**
- **Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers**
- **Ambassador Swing, Director General of IOM**
- **Distinguished Heads of Delegation**
- **Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Distinguished invited guests,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen, Good Morning**

I am honoured to stand before you today and address the 99th Session of the International Organization for Migration. Let me congratulate you and members of the bureau for your election to the office. You are assured of our cooperation to make success of this meeting.

Namibia had the rare privilege to co-host with the International Organization for Migration the first ever Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) Ministerial Conference which took place from 15 to 17 November 2010. I will be briefing you on the discussions and outcomes of the MIDSA Ministerial Conference on Thursday 2 December 2010.

Mr. President

Ladies and gentlemen,

Namibia aligns herself with the sentiments of the statements made by Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Union and the G 77. We join others in welcoming the Republic of Botswana, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Kingdom of Lesotho and Kingdom of Swaziland the IOM family. We look forward to work with them on issues of common interest in migration management.

The World Migration Report launched today signifies the paradigm shift in the management of migration. In this regard we commend the Director General and his staff for a job well done. Namibia is host to a number of migrants of different categories. The categories are refugees, migrant workers, illegal immigrants and internal migrants. It takes a great deal of resources and expertise to manage migration to the benefit of the country and its citizens as well as the migrants. We in Namibia advocate for a well managed and orderly migration. It is our view that if migration is well managed it will create harmony for both the migrants and the citizens of the receiving state.

Traditionally, migration was always manageable with traditional methods. However; now days its management has become complex. This is due to advancement in the transportation services, the

development of e-communication and the need for goods and services to cross borders. These welcome developments are however also being taken advantage of by criminals. Criminals have found communication links to coordinate their activities such as illegal immigration, cross-border crimes, human smuggling and trafficking, terrorism, etc. It is therefore imperative that measures be put in place to protect migrants from exploitation and prevent criminals from thriving in their activities.

Mr. President

Ladies and gentlemen,

Namibia in an effort to combat some of these crimes has enacted the Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA) which provides for the punishment of offenders in organized crime. The Act also makes provision for the forfeiture of proceeds of organized crime. In the same vein, joint training amongst law enforcement agencies has commenced with a view to creating synergy. Our efforts to build the capacity of our border officials will intensify so that there is a shift from border control to border management. We thank the International Organization for Migration for sponsoring some of these initiatives.

In conclusion, nations world wide need to cooperate in order to combat the ills emanating from migration while facilitating lawful migration to the benefit of all. We are convinced that joint effort in the management of migration will ensure that the gaps in labour markets will be filled lawfully which will minimize illegal migration.

Allow me to wish you a Merry Christmas and Fulfilling 2011.

I thank you.