



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT BY

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MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION AT THE

103RD IOM COUNCIL

26 – 29 NOVEMBER 2013

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

**Mr. President
Ambassador Swing; Director General of IOM
Distinguished Heads of Delegation
Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Namibia congratulates you and the rest of the bureau on your election. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Angola on behalf of the African Group.

We welcome the Governments of Fiji, Iceland, Turkmenistan and the Marshall Islands as new members of the IOM family. In the same vein, we congratulate the Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM), the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS), the International Medical Corps, the Terre Des Hommes International Federation and UNICEF as observers. We look forward to working with them as we continue to shape the field of migration management for the benefit of migrants and receiving communities.

My delegation commends the IOM Director General and his staff for the informative report on the activities of the organization which presents us with the opportunity to share experiences on the ever changing face of migration.

Namibia takes note of the complex humanitarian emergencies which continue to put pressure on the work of the organization. In this regard, we would like to pay tribute to the 3 October Lampedusa victims and the IOM staff who were attacked on 24 May 2013 in Kabul which left one with severe burns and three others injured.

We took note of the IOM – UN relations and believe that the relationship is mutual beneficial and that it will accrue to IOM member States. We equally, extend our gratitude to the work of the Working Group on Budget Reforms and pledge our support in this regard.

Mr. President

The theme of continuity, coherence and change is timely and relevant to the work of the organization. The recent UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that was held in New York from 3 to 4 October 2013 presented us with an opportunity to influence and identify measures that will help promote the role of migrants as agents of development. Furthermore, it underscored the importance of making migration an integral part of the post 2015 development agenda. It is my delegation's hope that the International Organization for Migration will continue to liaise with the relevant UN bodies and other partners in its effort to shape this important agenda.

The conclusions of the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development reflected a paradigm shift that migration is mostly south – north bound. The slow economic growth in the northern hemisphere and the discoveries of natural resources supporting economic growth opportunity in Africa has created a pull for north – south bound migration. In this regard, my delegation believes that capacity enhancement remains significant to manage this new phenomenon.

Namibia, for example, has recorded an increase in applications for work permits for expatriates from the developed world to work on uranium mines and other businesses. As a

consequence, there would be an increase in the flow of remittances which is north bound. In this regard, the developed world should support the developing countries in creating capacity necessary to manage the new trend of migration.

Mr. President

International migration continues to grow in scope, complexity and impact. The challenge remains how to balance between the facilitation of lawful migration and ensuring that the combat against trafficking and smuggling in persons and other transnational organized crimes is enforced. This requires that all border agencies are well capacitated in terms of skills development and the provision of modern equipment. In this regard, greater north-south cooperation between countries remains significant.

In conclusion, Namibia will continue to work together with the international community in exploring innovations to find durable solutions to problems experienced by migrants. In addition, partnership remains significant to ease obstacles and remove barriers to movement of persons and to combat transnational organised crime, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling to ensure dignified, orderly, safe and humane mobility.

I thank you!