

Draft Statement by Ambassador T.Mushayavanhu –Zimbabwe Permanent Representatives to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva at the 105th session of the IOM Council: Wednesday 26th November, 2014.

The President,

Members of the Bureau

Hon Ministers and Excellencies

The Director-General

Distinguished delegates

Allow me to commence my address by congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau for having been elected to lead our organisation for the next 12 months. You have come into office at a critical moment. A moment, when the UN is working towards finalizing the Sustainable Development Goals(SDG's) that are core to the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Admittedly, a reasonable number of the proposed SDGs have migration elements. However, what is important is to ensure that migration is kept as part of the development discourse and is expressed in clear terms in at least one of the final SDGs. My delegation has no doubt that you and the other members of the Bureau are capable of pursuing this objective working together with the secretariat. Your collective experiences in migration and related issues will put you in good stead in this regard.

Having said this, Mr. President, I wish to point out that Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statement made by Botswana on behalf of the Africa group and also wish to thank the Director-General for the Report he presented to us. Indeed, Global migration is a complex and multi-dimensional phenomenon. As rightly noted by the Director General, the new approach to global migration ought to be predicated on tolerance, cohesion and integration. These are the ingredients for a balanced discourse on global migration.

Going forward, IOM should continue collaborating with other stakeholders such as the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), given that

managing Global Migration requires concerted efforts by various stakeholders. Let it be everybody's agenda to talk and act on global migration. Let us have the Diaspora communities, employers as well workers organisations in the migration discourse.

Mr. President, talking about collaboration arrangements, my delegation appreciates the continued participation of IOM in the Global Migration Group (GMG). Certainly, the other members of the GMG benefit a lot from IOM's experiences in dealing with migration issues especially in times of emergencies and crises. IOM has the capacity and the instruments to deal with complex situations on the ground. It has competent and dedicated personnel. Good instruments for instance, the Migration Crisis Operation Framework.

On the other hand, Mr. President, IOM can also learn from the others members of the GMG. For instance, the ILO has the experience in engaging employers and workers organisations, stakeholders that are critical in dealing with labour migration issues and other facets of global migration. To this end, there are benefits to accrue to IOM as a result of being part of the GMG networking.

IOM should, therefore, work with everybody going forward. In this regard my delegation appreciates the fact that on our agenda there is a slot for the migrants under the topic Migrants' Voices. Having them in the discourse, in the scenario planning and in the search for solutions of problems affecting them is a brilliant idea. This ought to be the arrangements going forward.

Mr. President, I wish to end my address by focusing on a related issue, that of IOM-UN relations. First, my delegation is happy with the ongoing debate. While we continue to debate about it, Zimbabwe, appreciates the fact that IOM was involved in the preparation of the second UN High –level dialogue on International Migration and Development held in September 2013. There was a marked improvement in IOM's involvement visa-vis the second High level dialogue as compared to its low key involvement at the first High –level Dialogue in 2005.

Finally, Mr. President, Zimbabwe wishes to thank Ambassador Luis Enrique Basagoita, the outgoing Chairperson of Council and the other members of his Bureau. They provided good leadership to the Council and guided the Secretariat very well during their tenure of Office.

I thank you.