



**MALAWI'S STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR CAROLINE
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MALAWI PERMAMENT MISSION IN GENEVA

DURING THE

114th SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL (2023)

HELD AT THE CICG FROM 27TH – 29TH NOVEMBER 2023

1. Thank you, Chairperson, for giving me the floor. Allow me, on behalf of the Government and the people of Malawi, to begin by expressing our congratulations to the new IOM Director General Ms Amy Pope on her assumption of duty on 1 October 2023. We wish her and her team every success in delivering on the mandate of the IOM.
2. Malawi welcomes the discussion on the proposals for the 2024 budget which comes at a time when the world is faced with multi-faceted challenges that have resulted in forced displacements and movements of many people across the world and especially in Africa and Malawi has not been spared. The Director-General's commitment to prioritise climate change induced mobility in the programming fills with us with great hope and inspirations.
3. Chairperson, Malawi being a host to migrants from different countries, takes note that the budget provides for planned initiatives including the re-integration assistance to returnees, host communities and other displaced populations through the sharing of information on return-related stability in countries like Burundi. Malawi notes that there is a dwindling funding globally and recognises that this is posing a great risk to the displaced persons in a country which has challenges making provisions for its population. Malawi therefore makes a call to IOM to extend the assistance mentioned earlier to it considering that the country still hosts Burundians, most of whom have expressed an interest to return home.
4. My delegation takes note of the fact that the funding available to the IOM falls short of its needs to adequately deliver its mandate and we are grateful for the allocation to supporting health promotion and assistance for migrants in Malawi-within the SADC Region. We also take note IOM's Strategy 2, 3, 5, 11 which targets migration management in Southern Africa aimed at improving migration management through evidence-based management strategies and policies to address mixed migration challenges, including improving

protection frameworks for migrants in situations of vulnerability.

5. Chairperson, Malawi has a large youth population which is creating pressure on the labour market in terms of job creation. Currently, the country is also exploring options of labour export to countries that have a need for labour in various skills; and technical assistance would be ideal from IOM on labour export. Malawi desires to benefit from the Labour Migration program – Labour, Employment and Mobility Actions in Africa; so that its governance and regulation of labour migration and mobility is strengthened, with a view of achieving decent employment for the youth.
6. Chairperson, Malawi is a disaster-prone country with common hazards such as floods, cyclones, prolonged dry spells, drought, just to name but a few. The frequency and magnitude of disasters and extreme weather events have been on the increase in recent years resulting in migration and increased internal displacement of the population.
7. Climate change and environmental degradation are some of the factors exacerbating the disasters and its resultant effects on migration and displacement. These frequent extreme weather events and disasters have resulted in huge costs for recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction forcing the country to re-allocate the limited budgetary resources from other development needs.
8. Earlier this year in March 2023, Malawi experienced one of its worst disasters. Over 2,267,458 (1,110,639 Male, 1,156,819 Female) people were affected following the impact of Tropical Cyclone Freddy, of whom 659,278 (336,252 female; 323,026 male) people were displaced. Over 56% of the affected are children and 7.2% are persons living with disabilities. The disaster caused over 679 deaths and 2,178 injuries, with more than 537 people missing.

9. Chairperson, given the increasing trend of extreme weather events at the continental and regional levels resulting in irregular migration and internal displacement and the need to facilitate safer migration and provision of assistance to internally displaced persons, Malawi would like to join this important initiative on the 'Global call for solutions. Malawi notes, among others, the important role of global, continental, and regional integration and cooperation in dealing with these issues in the wake of climate change, environmental degradation, conflict, and economic shocks.
10. Malawi also notes the need for comprehensive legal and policy frameworks to facilitate issues of migration and internal displacement. This should be coupled with capacity building and institutional strengthening of the national structures that deal with migration and displacement.
11. Furthermore, Malawi will join all member states on the need strengthened information sharing and management at national, regional, continental, and global levels. Migration and displacement tracking information is vital for informed policy and decision making as well as interventions.
12. We welcome the IOM's Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Risk Reduction cluster in the Programme and Budget for 2024, whose aim under the Strengthening Leadership on Human Mobility in Southern Africa will assist member states like Malawi on the impacts of climate change and human mobility through closer collaboration with other stakeholders. Indeed, we hope that this will ensure that human mobility because of climate change is considered in policy, legislation, and programming.
13. Malawi as one of the Champion Countries, is committed to continue taking a leading role and lending its voice in ensuring that, in the face of climate change, we will do our utmost to preserve and protect the rights, welfare, and security of migrants and people on the move. We call on other member states to join us in this shared commitment.

14. Malawi is grateful for the technical and financial support rendered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to the Government of Malawi in areas of capacity building, provision of assistance to migrants and internally displaced people, among others.
15. Thank you, Chairperson.