



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
114TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

**NAMIBIA STATEMENT
ON AGENDA ITEM 10 GENERAL DEBATE**

TO BE DELIVERED BY

**H.E JULIA IMENE-CHANDURU PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN SWITZERLAND**

29 NOVEMBER 2023

1. Mr. Chair, Director General, Members of the Council, Distinguished delegates Namibia aligns herself with the statements delivered by Rwanda and Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group and we take this opportunity to deliver a few general remarks in our national capacity.
2. We wish to extend our congratulations to you and the entire Bureau on your election. Namibia assures you of her cooperation and commitment as you continue to guide the work of the IOM Council.
3. Namibia took note of the programmatic priority areas for the next strategic planning cycle, covering the period 2024–2028, and commend the new Administration for commencing with the review of the internal structures and processes of the Organization to remain fit for purpose and to deliver on the priority areas in an effective and efficient manner.
4. The work of IOM to support collaboration with diaspora groups to achieve development outcomes is commendable. Namibia, as part of her effort to provide a framework for engagement with the diaspora, facilitating the exchange of ideas and expertise, creating opportunities for investment, and fostering a sense of belonging and connection to the homeland, has developed a National Policy on Namibian Diaspora. During the month of May this year, a Multi-Sectorial Technical Workshop took place to develop the Implementation Plan for the draft National Policy on Namibian Diaspora. This event was supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), within the framework of the European Union funded Project “Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM).
5. Namibia welcomes the launch of the Gender and Migration Research Policy Action Lab which focuses on impact research for supporting gender-responsive policies, operations, programming, and practices in migration. Skilled female migrant workers often face difficulties in finding employment commensurate with their education when relocating to a new country. They are offered jobs in the informal economy such as domestic work or care work. These systemic gender inequalities produce deskilled and underemployed female migrant workers. It further crushes their hope to regain their professional status. We trust that this initiative will facilitate evidence-based policy and action to address gender inequalities among female migrant workers,

6. On climate change, Namibia recalls the statement by the Director General at the Africa Climate Change Summit in September this year that “*We have officially entered the era of climate migration,*” as well as her remarks on Monday that “climate and environmentally induced disasters caused more human mobility than violence and conflict”.
7. Mr. Chair, Namibia is vulnerable to natural hazards or disasters, such as floods and droughts, and is the second most arid country in sub-Saharan Africa. Therefore, climate-induced migration has become a reality, as increased droughts, severe weather as well as wildfires associated with global warming are on an increase.
8. The efforts by IOM on developing and scaling systems that are able to efficiently meet the additional humanitarian needs due to sudden disasters induced by climate change are therefore welcomed.
9. Namibia continues to call upon fellow member states to actively participate in the ICJ advisory proceedings on climate change. And in the same spirit, we call for urgent action from all member states to reduce the adverse impact of climate change on lives, livelihoods, and economies of the world.
10. Finally, Namibia commends the Director-General and her entire team at the IOM Secretariat for the operational support they continue to provide to States around the world.

I thank you.