

**Thank you Chairperson for giving me the floor,**

The delegation of Nigeria aligns with the statements delivered by the Republics of Rwanda and Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Group.

My delegation welcomes the Director-General (DG) of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Ms. Amy Pope to her first Council Session and congratulates Her Excellency, Ambassador Katharina Stasch, on her election as Chairperson of the IOM Council. Similarly, we commend His Excellency Ambassador Lansana Gberie for his stellar Chairmanship of the Council in the past year and join other delegations to commend out-going members of the Bureau, while congratulating the newly elected members.

Nigeria recognises the multifaceted landscape of migration and its far-reaching consequences, for individuals, as well as States. Migration can no doubt foster economic growth, cultural exchange, and innovation, but it also presents certain inherent challenges, particularly for those forced to leave their homes due to conflict or natural disasters. African migrants continue to face various challenges during their migratory journey, even when it is done through regular pathways. They are, quite often, ridiculed, mistreated and become victims of racial discrimination and xenophobia at various ports of entry in destination countries. This unnecessary display of prejudice is often exacerbated in cases of individuals involved in irregular migration, who may be fleeing persecution.

**Objective 11 of the Global Compact for Safe and Orderly Migration (GCM),**

calls for collaboration among states on border management, to ensure the security of migrants, encourage regular border crossing, taking into consideration, the humane treatment of the migrants, regardless of their migratory status. Nigeria calls on Member States to honour this principle, by promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants.

IOM has disclosed that eighty-seven percent (87%) of migration in Africa occurs within the continent. Nevertheless, a smaller percentage of young and highly skilled persons, including Nigerians migrating to other continents, often experience challenges with non-recognition of skills and qualifications in countries of destination. It is therefore imperative that this Council takes note of these germane impediments and begin to work on durable solutions to bridge the gap. We seize this opportunity to urge Member states to reflect on ensuring the adoption of migration policies that promote complementary pathways for regular migrants.

As a GCM Champion country, Nigeria is stridently committed to implementing the objectives of the Compact. It is in this context that the review of our 2015 National Migration Policy is being conducted, with the active support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to integrate the objectives GCM and other relevant national, regional and international processes and recommendations.

Furthermore, Nigeria was recently inducted into the Steering Committee of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (also known as the Rabat Process) - a governing body that identifies strategic priorities and making pertinent decisions to advance the objective of the dialogue. In her first major activity, Nigeria co-chaired, alongside the Netherlands, a thematic meeting on Migration, Youth and Development, to address several cross-cutting and emerging issues, including thematic issues related to brain-drain, brain-gain, knowledge transfer, circular migration, education and innovation.

In the onerous effort to address the menace of human trafficking, Nigeria adopted a National Action Plan to addresses five critical thematic areas, namely: protection and assistance, prevention, research and assessment, prosecution, and partnership and coordination. Similarly, a framework has

also been established to ensure the return, re-admission and re-integration of vulnerable migrants by ensuring the inclusion of these identified individuals in socioeconomic intervention programmes.

On diaspora engagement, the private sector in Nigeria, with the full support of the Government, recently organized the 6<sup>th</sup> Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit, anchored on fostering economic prosperity, by leveraging diaspora expertise, resources and network for national development. This approach is indeed instrumental to facilitating the transfer of skills and knowledge to local communities.

As I conclude, my delegation recalls the principles of the GCM, to strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships relevant to migration issues and calls on Member States to commit to promoting safe, orderly and regular migration worldwide.

Nigeria reiterates its commitment to the execution of its mandate for people on the move.

**I thank you**