

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

GCSTATEMENT BY NAMIBIA

**Hon. Maureen Hinda ,
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration
At**

**The UN Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact
for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
Marrakesh (10-11th December 2018)**

11 December 2018

Marrakesh, Morocco

**Mr President,
Your Excellency's,**

Namibia takes this opportunity to first of all express appreciation for the hospitality accorded, secondly to applaud Morocco for hosting this significant landmark

conference successfully and to extend warm greetings to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the People of the Kingdom of Morocco, participants of this conference, side events and all those supporting these noble principles entrenched in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration as adopted by this conference.

One of the cornerstones of our Constitution is respect for Human Rights, which is entrenched in Article 3 of our Supreme Law, thus we guarantee safe, free and orderly migration/movement of people within and across our borders.

Namibia reiterates the urgent need for new global governance framework to ensure safe migration and elimination of any forms of exploitation of migrants and violation of their human dignity. We equally wish to emphasize the significance of the maintenance of reliable national civil registration in order to ensure verifiable demographic information, statistics and to account for human whereabouts.

Furthermore, Namibia appreciates and supports the efforts of all players in putting the question of safe, orderly and regular migration on the global agenda and pledge our commitment to its implementation relevant to our context.

Migration or human mobility is a historic phenomenon as it is the basis of civilization and development world over. It is as essential as the movement of goods and natural resources. So is the desire to improve quality of life and if such improvement opportunities seem only possible beyond ancestral boundaries. It is obligatory on humanity to support and allow such advancements as it is through migration that the world has advanced. Was it not migration or human mobility that landed Vasco da Gama's or Jan van Rebeeck's on our shores and Columbus on Americas to name a few.

Allow me to conclude with quote of Nelson Mandela who said "To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity" and

Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan:

"When you deprive people of their right to live in dignity, to hope for a better future, to have control over their lives, when you deprive them of that choice, then you expect them to fight for these rights."

Thank you