



STATEMENT

BY

**THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
LESOTHO**

**AT THE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADOPTION OF IOM GCM Meeting:**

**11 DECEMBER 2018**

**MARRAKECH, MOROCCO**

**MR PRESIDENT,**

I feel honored and privileged to be part of this august meeting. On behalf of the delegation of Lesotho and indeed on my own behalf we would like to appreciate the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for their hospitality since our arrival. We bring warm greetings from his Majesty King Letsie III, from the Kingdom of Lesotho. Lesotho looks up to the High-Level Conferences such as this with great enthusiasm as we regard them as a platform of renewing our commitments and obligations in the cause of Migration Governance, thus we hold the United Nations with high esteem for organizing an event of this nature.

The delegation of Lesotho would like to applaud the United Nations for fostering for the development of the Global Compact on Migration. We warmly welcome and appreciate every thought and expertise put in place to come up with a document of this nature, we are particularly pleased with the fact that it includes all aspects of international migration; humanitarian, developmental and human rights related issues.

Indeed, this conference is an opportunity for us as Member States to strive to commence the implementation of the Global Compact with enthusiasm and undertake to embark on measurable and practical steps towards full realization of the Compact. Lesotho like other countries, has taken strides in enhancing migration

governance through various activities and projects supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

We wish to report that, following the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016, and the establishment of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Migration, the Government of Lesotho created a platform meant to lead discussions on the Global Compact by reviving an inter-agency, multi-sectoral National Consultative Committee on Migration. This Committee is chaired by the Ministry of Home Affairs. All matters relating to Migration Governance are coordinated under this platform.

**MR PRESIDENT,**

Heeding to a call to ‘create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries’ as per objective 19 of the Compact, in July 2018, the Government of Lesotho received support from IOM Development Fund to implement the project titled “Enhancing Coordination and Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Effectively Engage with Basotho Diaspora” implemented by IOM and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations as a lead Ministry for the project. The overall objective for the project is to contribute towards an increased contribution of the Basotho diaspora in the socio-economic development of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

According to studies, Lesotho is among the highest recipients of remittances in the world hence its vision: “Well managed migration for the benefit of all”. Lesotho has therefore taken a position that the positive benefits of migration should be maximised while the negatives should be minimised in line with both Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals and African Union Agenda 2063. In doing so,

human rights based approach to migration has been adopted as epitomised in various policy documents,

Further, we wish to report that the Kingdom of Lesotho was among the countries selected for assessing the country's Migration Governance Index (MGI) in 2018. This was done with a view to ascertaining what a well-governed migration might look like in the context of Sustainable Development Goal target 10.7. The MGI exercise was facilitated by IOM Lesotho with Ministry of Home Affairs as a lead Ministry on migration issues in Lesotho. The MGI narrative report is yet to be published globally in the internationally-recognized magazine **the Economist**.

With regard to the policy and legal framework that could enhance the implementation of the Compact, at the national level, we are pleased to mention that, over and above the already enabling frameworks in place, recently in September 2018, Lesotho successfully passed a law that allows for Dual Citizenship. This development will address the long overdue status of some irregular migrants who reside outside the Kingdom and mostly in the Republic of South Africa, our one and only real neighbor.

Lesotho fully supports the SADC perspective on migration as stipulated in the SADC Migration Policy Framework as well as the Common African Position on the adoption of the Compact, particularly objective number 23 which speaks to the strengthening of international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

One of the concrete achievements we hope to attain within this four years prior to the first International Migration Review Forum in 2022 is to cooperate with as many countries as we can, in order to address labor mobility. We believe that

cooperation under bilateral and multilateral labor Agreements can go a long way to curbing irregular migration.

**MR PRESIDENT,**

Notwithstanding the challenges that migrants, refugees and displaced persons continue to face in many jurisdictions, I implore each one of us present here today to take ownership of the Global Compact and other international treaties protecting the interests of migrants and continue our efforts towards their full implementation, with a view to improving the rights of migrants in our territories.

I wish to conclude by reiterating my Government's full support towards the implementation of the Global Compact.

I THANK YOU.