



SOUTH AFRICA'S STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY

**HONOURABLE DR SIYABONGA CWELE, MINISTER OF HOME
AFFAIRS**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO ADOPT THE UNITED NATIONS
GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR
MIGRATION**

10 – 11 DECEMBER 2018

MARRAKECH, THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

Check against delivery

His.Exellency Mr. Nasser Bourita, President of the
Conference

His.Exellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations
Secretary General,

Her Excellency, Maris Garces, President of General
Assembly

Excellencies Heads of State and Government,

Honourable Ministers

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President,

South Africa wishes to express its gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this important conference, and for welcoming us in the beautiful City of Marrakech with a graceful African hospitality. The large presence and attendance by the international community is a reflection that management of international Migration is not a matter that can be resolved by Governments alone, but requires all relevant stakeholders. It is in this spirit of solidarity and

transparency, that South Africa became intimately involved with the GCM Inter-Governmental negotiations in New York, as informed by the New York Declaration adopted in September 2016.

Allow me to also commend the Co-facilitators for the transparent and inclusive approach in the engagement with multi-stakeholders over and above Member States.

Mr President,

My Government is committed to the implementation of the global agenda on Sustainable Development, and as you may be aware, international migration is one of the most important policy issues of our life time with huge political, economic, social and humanitarian implications. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development pays particular attention to the people, planet and prosperity. It recognises the positive contribution migration makes, if properly managed, to inclusive growth and development. This therefore calls upon all States to

strengthen their international support and cooperation to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr President,

To this end, South Africa in its recognition of the nexus between migration and development adopted a new White Paper on International Migration in March 2017 following wide consultations with all relevant stakeholders nationally and at regional level. The new international migration policy introduces a management approach that is based on a whole of government and whole of society.

This is a complete departure from the traditional approach wherein international migration was controlled, thereby bringing a paradigm shift which embraces the critical role and partnership between the State and Non-State Actors in the management of international migration. The vision that is enshrined in the new policy

embraces international migration for development while guarding the core principles of national sovereignty, peace and security.

Mr President,

South Africa as a country adherent to human rights is a signatory to a plethora of the United Nations International Legal Instruments relevant to management of international migration. Furthermore, my Government remains committed to the continued collaboration with other States at Bilateral and Multilateral level to strengthen the management of international migration in a manner that ensures adherence to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr President,

For migration to be a choice rather a necessity, the root causes of involuntary migration, such as

for socio-economic development to address the triple challenges of inequality, unemployment and poverty. The outcomes of this consultations will inform our final position at forthcoming meeting on 19 December 2018 in New York

I thank you