

ZIMBABWE

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE, HON SEKAI NZENZA, AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO ADOPT THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION IN MARRAKESH, MOROCCO: 10-11 DECEMBER, 2018

President of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;

Your Excellency, Madam Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, President of the General Assembly,

Your Excellency, Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Majesties,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings from my president, His Excellency Gimmesson Dambudzo Mutsvangwa who could not be here. And his sent me.

My delegation is honoured to be part of this historic occasion, when we, the members of the United Nations are gathered to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) here in Marrakech in the Kingdom of Morocco. This meeting marks the first internationally agreed normative and regulatory framework on international migration governance following a robust consultative and negotiation process since the adoption of the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants at the 71st session of the

United Nations General Assembly in 2016. I wish to thank the Permanent Representatives of Mexico and Switzerland for their sterling role in co-facilitating the successful conclusions of negotiations on the GCM. *Thank Morocco*

Our common acknowledgement of the inevitability of migration among the citizens of the global village demands our collective action to improve the management of international migration. No single nation can address the challenges occasioned by the imperatives of international migration. ~~This is the raison d'être for the birth of the Global Compact for Migration.~~ It is our collective duty as sending, transit and destination Member States to find enduring solutions to the ~~imperiled~~ dignity and human rights of migrants. Our esteemed Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres, has reminded us eloquently of our shared and collective responsibility to **"make migration work for all"**.

The universality of SDGs, whose clarion call is to leave no one behind, has continued to guide dialogue on the need to ensure that both regular and irregular migrants are an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Agenda 2030 recognizes the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development. Many countries owe some of their success in business and technological advancement to the invaluable contributions of migrants and refugees.

Mr. President,

The implementation of the GCM framework should facilitate the removal of barriers to the active participation of migrants in the national development discourse of both countries of origin and destination. This entails the creation of an enabling environment for the social integration of both migrants and local communities to reduce tension over perceived social and cultural incompatibilities. Changing the narrative on migrants can also be useful in reducing negative perceptions of migrants.

In 2016 the government of Zimbabwe unveiled its 2017-2022 National Diaspora Policy Implementation Action Plan as a framework for engagement with its diaspora to ensure their contribution in the national development agenda. It accepts migrants as agents of change and sustainable development. The policy identified priority areas, including policies and supportive legislation, diaspora investment, remittances and diaspora rights to engender mutual partnership between the Government and the diaspora.

Zimbabwe is also reviewing its Labour Migration Policy framework to ensure that it is in tandem with the Diaspora Engagement Policy Framework. The framework also has provision for bilateral and regional agreements with other governments hosting the Zimbabwe diaspora for mutually beneficial and improved working conditions.

Under the new Govt, has

Zimbabwe's economic blueprint, the Transitional Stabilization Programme, for 2018-2020 provides many opportunities for the political and economic participation of Zimbabweans in the diaspora in the national development discourse. Inclusive policies are indispensable to facilitate continuous engagement and dialogue with the diaspora to enhance the crafting of a comprehensive framework that will identify and address potential challenges and consolidate relations among all relevant stakeholders. Zimbabwe is also ready to learn from the experiences of other Member States that have already established, tried and tested frameworks to enhance the active participation of migrants in the development of countries of origin.

African countries have used progressive migration and diaspora policies, at both the regional and continental levels, that have enabled them to deal with majority of migration flows taking place within the continent rather than from South to North. Regional and continental migration frameworks such as the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action and the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons have been instrumental regulatory frameworks on migration.

Migration is a shared responsibility between origin and destination countries hence the need for bilateral, regional and international agreements to ensure that migrants remain the major beneficiaries of such cooperation between and among Member States. There is need to strengthen existing levels of international cooperation and assistance to countries hosting large migrant populations. It is important to make human rights a key pillar of the GCM to avoid the

exploitation and abuse of ~~vulnerable~~ migrants through criminal activities such as trafficking in persons.

Mr. President

The ultimate success of the implementation of the GCM will depend on its scope to address the key drivers of migration such as poverty, unemployment, economic and financial crises, natural disasters and conflict. Policy or physical barriers, including the arbitrary criminalization of migrants cannot stop migration but rather increase the risks that migrants take in search of better opportunities.

Mr. President, - a new govt in Zimbabwe: *renewed*
- open to business
- seek partnership
- encourage investments

In conclusion the universal application of the provisions of the GCM demands our collective response and action to make migration work for all. *In new spirit,* Zimbabwe is ready to join other Member States in the effective implementation of the GCM, including the establishment of a convention on migration similar to the convention for refugees.

*2nd economic
open for
business
renewed
response*

Conclusion

I Thank You!