

99th IOM Council Session: Migration Highlights: Key Developments

By

Hon Elia G Kaiyamo: Deputy Minister of
Home Affairs and Immigration of Namibia

Geneva, 2 December 2010



outline

- Namibia Brief Back Ground
- Cooperation with IOM
- MIDSA Ministerial Conference
- Conference Discussion
- MIDSA Recommendations
- Conclusions

Namibia Brief Background

- Namibia attained independence on 21 March 1990 after 106 years of foreign occupation
- Until 1989 Namibia was refugee producing country
- Namibia has a population of 2.2 million
- Joined IOM in 2009
- Hosts about 8000 refugees
- Attracts about 1 200 000 visitors on annual basis
- About 450 000 Namibians travel to other countries on annual basis

Cooperation with IOM

- In 2007 IOM provided training to law enforcement agencies on imposter recognition
- In 2008 IOM helped with Migration and Border Management Assessment in Namibia
- In 2010 IOM helped Namibia with crafting of Operational Manual for Immigration Officers
- Currently busy with immigration training manuals and curriculum
- Funded training for Training of Trainers and 194 Immigration Officers

MIDSA Ministerial Conference

- Namibia was honoured to Co-host the 1st ever Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) Ministerial Conference from 15 to 17 November 2010
- The Conference was the 1st ever MIDSA event attended by Ministers of SADC member states in charge of migration
- The theme of the Conference was “ Managing Migration through Regional Cooperation”
- Good practices on migration were shared during the conference



Conference Discussion

- Took note of 10 years of MIDSA existence
- Reviewed MIDSA operating modality and recommended its strengthening
- Expressed the desire for real time data on migration to help formulation of policies
- Further expressed the need to harmonize data collection formats
- Harmonization of migration laws was considered pertinent



Discussion continued

- Conference discussed the need to engage nationals in the Diaspora
- Countries exchanged views on possible future engagement strategies on Diasporas
- The protection of migrants' human rights was also emphasized
- Discussed the paradigm shift from Border Control to Border Management

Discussion continued

- Identified need for harmonized training and capacity building
- Encouraged creation of one-stop border posts
- Creation of border information centres to combat irregular migration
- Urged member states to regularize the irregular migrants where possible
- Urged member states to improve legislative frameworks to protect refugees in line with the International Instruments on Refugees

Discussion continued

- Proposal made that member states take ownership of MIDSA
- MIDSA discussions be fed in SADC decision making process
- Members expressed the need to pursue the SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movements of Persons and Goods



MIDSA Recommendations

- The Chair-in-Office of MIDSA and IOM to pursue integration of MIDSA into SADC Secretariat fora
- Enhance migration management coordination through focal points on migration in all member states
- Encourage signing and ratification of SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons

MIDSA Recommendations

continued

- Increase public awareness on migration to discourage irregular migration
- Engage the Diaspora in development and lessen the brain drain
- Improve collection, analysis, dissemination and harmonization of migration data to help policy makers

Conclusions

- MIDSA Ministerial platform can serve as avenue for policy research and formulation
- Both SADC and MIDSA can benefit from each other
- Continued dialogue on migration may contribute to better understanding and will lead to optimal management of migration



I thank you