



**Launch of the Migration Week
16 February 2022
Nomagugu Ncube
Chief of Mission
International Organization for Migration**

Guest of Honour, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Honorable Jack Mwiimbu MP

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Mr. Dickson Matembo

Other permanent secretaries, directors and senior government official here present

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and heads of missions accredited to the Republic of Zambia

Cooperating partners

Civil society partners

UN family

Media

Ladies and gentlemen

It is an honour to witness the commemoration of the Migration Week under the theme: *“Cooperation and Partnership: Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration”*.

Let me use this opportunity to congratulate the Government on the continued path and interest in mainstreaming migration among the national priorities in line with the global trend.

For the first time, migration has become part and parcel of the global development agenda with the introduction of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. The emphasis is on the developmental potential of migration, if managed effectively. Direct reference is made to migration in target 10.7. As further confirmation of the importance of migration in the socio-economic and political discourse, it is remarkable to note that Heads of States and Governments adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration at the UN General Assembly in December 2018. The

Global Compact on Migration, which is the first intergovernmental negotiated document, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner, builds on the provisions of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Distinguished Guests

I wish to note that the UN General Assembly has agreed that the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration has to be accompanied by regular monitoring on how countries are implementing its provisions. In this regard, States resolved to establish the **International Migration Review Forum** which will serve as the primary intergovernmental global platform to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The first International Migration Review Forum will take place in 2022.

As a build up to the forthcoming International Migration Review Forum, the global community is commemorating the Migration Week between 14 – 18 February 2022. Accordingly, I wish to extend my appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Zambia for convening a series of commemorative events during this Migration Week.

I wish to take this opportunity to reflect on the significant role of migration in national development processes. I am confident that these commemorations will shine a spotlight on migration and will serve to strength our collective resolve to manage migration for the benefit of all and ensuring that no one, including migrants, is left behind in the development discourse.

As we commemorate the Migration Week, I wish to note that in order to concretize and streamline the UN support to the Government, the UN in supporting the Government of the Republic of Zambia to mainstream migration in national development processes including, but not limited, to the Common Country Analyses (CCA), the United Nations

Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and the 8th National Development Plan.

Distinguished Guests and the Press

You may wish to know that in demonstration of its commitment to migration issues, the UN has established a United Nations Network on Migration following the adoption of the GCM in 2018. The International Organization for Migration is the designated Coordinator and Secretariat. Primarily, the UN Network on Migration is to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to States. It is encouraging to note that Zambia is actively engaged in tapping into the support of the UN Network on Migration.

Ladies and gentlemen

The COVID-19 global pandemic has had profound impacts on migration and mobility globally. In response to this, the United Nations, through IOM, provides direct assistance to migrants and

other vulnerable groups on the move and works closely with other United Nations agencies to strengthen Member States' capacities to address human mobility during outbreaks. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided further evidence of the urgency to enhance cross border cooperation.

Distinguished Gusts

We have seen in our times that transnational organized crime increasingly entrenched including human smuggling and trafficking. In response to this, IOM supported the Government of the Republic of Zambia to ensure that vulnerable migrants benefit from the avenues of protection as guided in the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), while addressing irregular migration. Evidence suggest that a substantial proportion of mixed migrants end up in situations of extreme exploitation and sometimes victims of human trafficking.

Ladies and gentlemen

In conclusion, the GCM and SDGs are intertwined as they cannot be implemented at the exclusion of each other. Failure on the

implementation of the GCM can be directly and indirectly translated into failure to achieve the SDGs.

I wish to reaffirm my organization's collective commitment to the Government in strengthening migration governance both in the implementation of the GCM and pursuance of the SDGs in the spirit of "Leaving No One Behind".

I wish you all fruitful commemoration of the Migration Week.

THANK YOU