

# **Remarks**

**By**

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**Validation of the Migration Profile**

**4 December, 2015**

**Heja Lodge**

**Windhoek, Namibia**

Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana

Hon. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration Erastus Utoni

All Minister and Deputy Ministers present

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration: Ambassador Patrick Nandago

Senior Government Officials

Members of the UN Family

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Members of the private sector and civil society

Members of the Media

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is with great pleasure that I speak to you today on behalf of the UN, and in support of the process by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the International Organisation on Migration, to develop a comprehensive Migration Profile for Namibia.

Simply put, such a profile is the compilation of national and international data on migration, coupled with the impact of population movement on development, to define migration patterns.

Such a profile is the first step in developing an evidence based policy on migration.

The Migration Profile report explores Namibia's migration challenges, and provides comprehensive recommendations to be considered.

Today's meeting is extremely important as various Ministries and partners will validate key recommendations from the Namibian Migration Profile.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In September this year, Members of the United Nations adopted 17 Development Goals that will constitute the development agenda for the next 15 years; 'to ensure that we meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

SDGs 4 (data on migrants) 8 (trafficking), 10 (protection) refer to migration. Understanding who is moving, why they are moving and the impact of such a movement, can help in the design of strategies to manage migration.

The SDGs present an opportunity to address links between migration and development.

A Namibian migration profile can contribute to development by identifying population movement trends, and gaps in addition to

forming the evidence base for an action plan to address challenges that may arise.

In the longer term, a Migration Profile spurs dialogue and collaboration amongst various Ministries and agencies dealing with migration-related portfolios (Home Affairs, labour, environment, interior, health, education, etc.).

For example, in Nigeria, such an inter-Ministerial dialogue increased resource flows to data collection; strengthened training activities and led to a national labor migration policy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namibia is a country of origin, transit and destination for people on the move.

Migration issues must therefore be considered when looking at the rapid urbanization and the development of informal settlements in Namibia.

Refugees (and Namibia should be commended for its important refugee and asylum-seeker intake), border management, irregular migration, human trafficking, poverty and, mobility due to drought and natural disasters, are also challenges to be considered.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Migration can also be an opportunity that contributes positively to development.

For example, Ghanaians in Italy have formed a transnational cooperative of farm managers back at home. This cooperative has generated employment for hundreds of Ghanaians by promoting partnership between Ghana and Italy through the export of pineapples to the Coop supermarket chain in Italy, where they reside.

Home Town Associations (HTAs), in Cameroon, in the field of health, have rehabilitated hospitals in the region of Manyu, provided incubators for rural health posts in the town of Bali, and promoted the temporary return of qualified doctors to provide free consultations in both towns through “health fairs”.

HTAs have also supported the construction of orphanages and classrooms; equipped public libraries; contributed to the supply of water, public toilets, village halls and mortuaries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These examples illustrate not only how migration can contribute to development but also the value of the diaspora in the development of both the country of destination and the country of origin.

Having information to identify migration trends, gaps and most important, opportunities, is key to protecting them while also harnessing the potential they present.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, allow me to commend the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and its partners, for leadership in the development of the Migration Profile.

His Excellency the President has declared a war on poverty, and vowed that no one will be left behind. Understanding migration issues and how to harness migration for development could contribute positively to this effort.

With these remarks, I wish to proceed with the opening of this high-level validation meeting. And I trust that it leads to a successful finalization of the Migration Profile for Namibia.

Thank you!