



**STATEMENT BY  
PROF. HB MKHIZE, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**10<sup>TH</sup> SUMMIT OF THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT (GFMD)**

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**Check against delivery**

Honourable Chairperson,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates and fellow participants,

South Africa extends the warm appreciation to the co-hosts for the reception and hospitality extended to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Berlin.

The theme of this Summit meeting is timely and relevant as it marks the beginning of the journey towards the elaboration of a United Nations Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration under the auspices of the General Assembly. We concur with the report of the former United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative for International Migration, Mr. Peter Sutherland that characterises international migration, "as the moral, political and economic issue of our time."

That said, it has to be borne in mind that South Africa fully subscribes to the Pan African vision espoused in the African Union's Agenda 2063: "The Africa we want", which seeks to promote an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.

South Africa wishes to underscore that the movement of persons across international boundaries is not a new phenomenon, particularly on the African continent. International migration, in general, is beneficial if it is managed in a way that is efficient, secure and respectful of human rights and fundamental freedoms. South Africa continues to experience large mixed-migration flows and has become a major destination, transit and

entry point to the continent and the world. South Africans embrace international migration for development whilst guarding our sovereignty, peace and security.

Honourable Chairperson,

My Government's commitment and obligations in providing protection to migrants derives from its Constitutional imperative of ensuring the respect for the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In recognition of this Constitutional imperative, we have recently completed a comprehensive review of our international migration policy through the approval by Cabinet of the White Paper on International Migration. The White Paper contends that international migration is a natural, largely positive phenomena, which well managed can make a crucial contribution to growing our economy and transforming Africa as envisioned in the African Union Agenda 2063: "The Africa we want". This policy framework provides a progressive vision for South Africa to maximise the benefits of well-managed international migration, through a strategic, modern, integrated and risk-based approach, while minimising the associated risks. In this context, South Africa recognises that in a globalised world of dynamic, interconnected economies, the ability to manage the flow of people is critical to economic competitiveness.

Another milestone made by my Government in the area of the efficient management of South Africa's Ports of Entry and the border line, is the recent adoption by Parliament of the Border Management Authority Bill. This Bill represents a radical shift from the colonial and apartheid systems that promoted segregation among the people, rather than

dignified migration. The implementation of the Border Management Authority [BMA] will be effected through a number of incremental, overlapping phases. Since the decision was taken to establish the BMA in 2013 by the Government of South Africa, a six-phase roll-out process has been adopted. Phase 1 [2013-2017] being the pre-establishment phase which includes inter alia, all the basic feasibility studies and roll-out planning processes. Phase 2 [2018-2019] is the establishment phase which includes the finalisation of the BMA legislation and the commencement of key appointments. Phase 3 [2019-2023] is the integration of various border laws enforcement functions and the initial BMA roll-out phase to 18 ports of entry. Phase 4 [2024-2027] will continue with the incremental expansion and roll-out to the remaining 54 ports of entry. Phase 5 [2028-2032] envisions full integration and operationalisation. Phase 6 is the sustainment and ongoing adaptability phase beyond 2032.

Honourable Chairperson,

The value of the BMA is envisaged to have a number of positive benefits and impacts:

- Sustained socio-economic development of the Republic of South Africa;
- Protect South Africa from harmful diseases, pests and substances;
- Contribute to safe travel and efficient trade facilitation;
- Protect South Africa from hostile border movement;
- Protect South Africa's environment and natural resources; and
- Accord with the Constitution and international law.

Honourable Chairperson,

It is against this backdrop that South Africa welcomes the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted on 19 September 2016 by the Heads of State and Government. We believe that the GFMD can play a positive and meaningful role in providing substantive inputs that will shape the form and content of the Global Compact on Migration. The ongoing deliberations under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly and his co-facilitators give us assurance and hope on the inclusivity, openness and transparency of the consultation processes that have been undertaken in different forums to ensure that “no one is left behind”.

South Africa is of the firm view that the envisaged Global Compact should inherently have the following features:

- Address migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner, which tackles its root causes, such as underdevelopment which manifests itself through conflict, poverty, unemployment;
- Be largely inspired by the 2030 Agenda for inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development;
- Bring about a balance between security considerations and development;
- To take into account the levels of development of countries when addressing issues of burden-sharing;
- To also take into account the developmental needs of the developing countries such as infrastructure, capacity-building, knowledge and technology transfer; and
- Promote human rights, peace and security.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson, South Africa remains committed in its obligations to play its part in ensuring that there is safe, orderly and regular migration.

I thank you.