



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**STATEMENT BY
HONOURABLE BOTLOGILE M. TSHIRELETSO, MP.**

**AT THE
138TH INTER PARLIAMENTARY UNION ASSEMBLY AND
RELATED MEETINGS**

**24 – 28 MARCH, 2018
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Madam President of the Inter Parliamentary Union,

Your Excellencies,

Hon. Speakers here present,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

International migration is a global phenomenon that is growing in scope and complexity and it affects most countries in the world. The broad social, economic and political underpinnings of migration are diverse and often linked to the notion of globalization in broad terms.

The theme for the 138th IPU Assembly is drawn from Sustainable Development Goal Number 10 which calls on us to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsive migrations through the implementation of planned and well managed migration policies.

Madam President, as host countries to migrants, we are tasked with coming up with national integration policies to facilitate migrants and guarantee them some decent levels of living in the form of health, food and shelter. Our policies must therefore focus on the management of global migration and the protection of people affected by displacement.

Botswana as a country has experienced challenges due to the influx of migrants and it is becoming more difficult for the Government to provide basic social

services such as shelter, health, food and water. This is primarily due to the lack of a comprehensive and timely approach that reflects both the national interest in controlling undocumented border crossings and a concurrent commitment to upholding its endorsement of international protocols on displaced people.

In addition the Government is having to spend more money in an attempt to repatriate illegal immigrants back to their respective countries and on managing policing and control, protection, absorption, and integration of migrants.

In an attempt to address these challenges the Government undertook several reviews and amendments to the Immigration Act; the recent one being in 2014. This involved the merging of the old Immigration Act and Employment of Non – Citizens Act to improve facilitation of migrants and speedy service delivery.

I therefore stand here to pledge my county's support and commitment to this noble cause and to encourage us all to continue to improve existing policies and legislation so as to improve the general conditions of migrants.

I thank you Madam President.