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PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN

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**Statement by Sweden**

**Check against delivery**

Mr. Chairperson,

Sweden aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its Member States. We wish, in addition, to say a few words.

I would like to start by thanking Director-General Swing for his presentation. On behalf of Sweden I reiterate our strong support and appreciation for his firm and professional leadership of IOM. The organization has developed in impressive ways during the last few years, both in terms of stability as well as in operational and policy outputs and results. In these troubled times, the world needs a robust migration agency.

Last year – inspired by the Director-General’s use of alliteration - we highlighted three important “G’s” – the GFMD, Global Governance and Growth. This year we wish to underscore three important “S’s”: Solidarity, SDGs and System-wide Coherence.

Mr. Chair,

First, on **Solidarity**. We live in an increasingly insecure world, where conflicts, threats and challenges are shared across countries and continents. Where humanitarian needs are unprecedented, and where more people than ever before have been forced to leave their homes.

The crisis is genuinely global in nature. We need to prevent the loss of lives, alleviate the suffering and protect the rights of the refugees and migrants. Around 86 percent of all refugees are in developing countries, often in neighbouring states to countries in conflict. The governments, people and civil society of these recipient countries deserve our sincere appreciation, and our

solid support in shouldering this responsibility. We need to step up solidarity and put financial strength behind our promises.

Last year, more than 81 000 asylum seekers came to Sweden, which at the time was the highest number per capita in the EU. This year we foresee an increase of 100%, about 190 000 persons are expected to apply for asylum in Sweden, equalling 1.9 per cent of our population. Of those more than 30 000 will be unaccompanied minors. This put a tremendous strain on the Swedish system which is not sustainable in the long run. As a consequence of the conflict in Syria over 100 000 Syrians have sought protection in Sweden since April 2011.

We will continue to do our part. But that will not be enough. It is time for more countries to make a real effort and show solidarity. All countries must step up and share the responsibility when lives are at risk.

The number of resettlement places in the world must increase dramatically, to provide safe and legal channels for people in urgent need of protection.

In these challenging times, more migrants and countries rely on IOM for assistance and IOM's role in the international humanitarian efforts continue to grow. IOM's extensive presence and network available to respond quickly and effectively on the ground is a great strength and we must make sure that IOM's possibility to act and function is not hampered.

Sweden has over the past year supported IOM's efforts to strengthen its institutional capacity in the humanitarian field. As part of these efforts, we welcome IOM's new Humanitarian Policy which more clearly defines IOM's roles, responsibility and value added in humanitarian action and its commitment to humanitarian principles.

Second, on the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**: Sweden applauds the commitments on migration in the 2030 Development Agenda and the Addis Abeba Action Agenda. Together we have succeeded in creating a global framework that can assist us in meeting the challenges ahead as well as foster the positive effects of migration on development. IOM played a crucial role both in terms of policy support as well as advocacy. I am proud that Sweden was one of the main advocates for including migration in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

We now need to deliver on the commitments we have made. IOM's expertise, participation and impact need to be ensured in the implementation and follow-up of the SDGs on migration.

This leads us to our third “S”: **System-wide Coherence**. We believe that the migration related commitments and affirmations in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Abeba Action Agenda will serve to foster collaboration and coordination between multilateral actors, now when all relevant UN agencies and IOM have migration and development on their agendas.

The current magnitude of migration flows demonstrates the need for strengthened global governance of migration, including better functioning multilateral cooperation between all relevant stakeholders. This means, for example, the UN system, the Global Migration Group including IOM, and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

As the leading global migration agency, IOM must be empowered to have a clear and undisputed role to implement and follow up the migration related aspects of the 2030 Agenda as well as forge stronger cooperation within the UN System to address both the challenges and opportunities of global migration. Sweden therefore welcomes a stronger relationship between IOM and the UN and supports the resolution which will give the Director General mandate to pursue more formal negotiations in this direction.

Mr. Chair,

Let me conclude by reiterating my Government’s appreciation and support for the important role and work of IOM. We look forward to continued fruitful cooperation.

Thank you!