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**Statement by HE Mr Vojislav Šuc,
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations Office and other
international organizations in Geneva
at the 107th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration**

7 December 2016

Mr. Chairman,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and in addition would like to present some views in its national capacity.

Slovenia is pleased that the adoption of the New York declaration on refugees and migrants in September demonstrated genuine political will to find long-lasting solutions to the unprecedented migration flows. The summit in New York has clearly demonstrated to us that we are faced with global challenge which needs a global solution - a solution involving the whole of the international community. No country can cope with migration on its own. Our strength lies only in unity and close international cooperation and coordination.

Timely and coherent action by all of us is urgent, or we will continue to witness tragic destinies of migrants. In seeking better lives, they fall prey to organized crime and in many cases lose their lives. We should therefore reunite our efforts to effectively combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of human beings. Slovenia actively participated in EUNAVFOR MED operation with a patrol boat and will continue to take part in these efforts.

Our cooperation must go beyond assistance offered to migrants and their host communities at their destination or on route. We must together start solving the root causes of irregular migration, including through sustainable development. Agenda 2030 will be of key importance to this endeavour.

It is difficult to imagine a successful response to migration without regional cooperation and assistance of international organisations. In this regard IOM's help to migrants on Western Balkan route last year was welcomed and highly appreciated by my county.

Last year, I reported to this body on large numbers of migrants and refugees who transited Slovenia. Today, I can inform you that Slovenia is fully demonstrating its solidarity by actively participating in the EU relocation scheme. So far, Slovenia has relocated 22% of its assigned quota. Furthermore Slovenian government decided to resettle people from Turkey in need of protection. Here I cannot emphasise enough how important for these people are well designed social programs for their successful integration in our society. Different project are in place in Slovenia in this regard.

We would like to underline the importance of respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants at all times and paying particular attention to vulnerable migrants.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to underline that Slovenia highly appreciates the work of the IOM and its director general. The organisation celebrating its 65 anniversary is in better shape than ever. We are convinced that, due to its new UN related status, which we salute the IOM will be even better placed to help find sustainable global solutions to mass movements of refugees and migrants. As such, IOM should play the leading role in the preparations of the global compact on safe, orderly and regulated migration.

Thank you.