

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Ma Zhaoxu, Head of the Chinese Delegation, at the 108th session of the IOM Council

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General,

China congratulates Cuba, the Cook Island and Kuwait on becoming Member States or Observer State of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), congratulates UNAIDS and six other organizations on obtaining Observer Status of the IOM. China stands ready to work closely with news members and observers within the framework of the IOM for the shared vision of safe and orderly migration.

Mr. Chairman,

Now it is the time to strengthen and improve global governance on migration. Developing the Global Compact for Migration offers rare opportunity to do so. China supports the United Nations in advancing the process on the Compact as mandated by the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. In doing so, we believe the following points should be highlighted:

First, looking at migration in an objective manner. We need to recognize the contribution of migration to common development and the exchange between peoples and cultures, and encourage countries to take credible steps to protect the rights and interests of migrants. On the other hand, we need to promote mutually beneficial cooperation among

countries concerned, and crack down on transnational organized crimes involving migration, such as smuggling and human trafficking.

Second, addressing migration issues through development. Migration and development are mutually complementary. The Compact must be designed to speed up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and remove major root causes of migration, including uneven development.

Third, promoting cooperation through consultations. Negotiations of the Compact should be led by UN member states. Different national conditions, laws and policies in migration areas of various countries should be respected. Full consultations should be carried out to build consensus between the countries of origin, transit, and destination.

Mr. Chairman,

Under the leadership of Director-General Ambassador Swing, the IOM in the past year has been active in humanitarian rescues, capacity building for migration management in developing countries, and providing valuable support for the development of the Compact. China appreciates the work of the IOM. During Ambassador Swing's ninth visit to China last August, the two sides had in-depth exchanges on deepening China-IOM cooperation and reached agreement on cooperation in a number of areas. China will continue to support the work of the IOM and Ambassador Swing.

Mr. Chairman,

China is one of the countries with the largest numbers of inbound and outbound travels. In recent years, China has worked to upgrade its legal system building for provision of services to and administration of affairs of foreigners in China. Migrants' rights to education, health and social security are better protected. On top of this, we have been an active

force in international humanitarian cooperation. In May this year, China provided one million US dollars to IOM for the project on "Multi-sector Assistance to IDPs, vulnerable Communities and Returnees in Somalia".

Mr. Chairman,

As President Xi Jinping stated, China is dedicated to a new type of international relationship featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win-win cooperation. He called on people across the world to jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind and an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity. Safe, orderly, and regular migration will be a bridge and a bond instrumental in bringing about these visions. China will follow the above-mentioned guidelines and take an active part in international cooperation on migration, the development of the Compact, and the IOM's work. We will work with all parties to contribute more to the well-being of migrants and orderly global migration.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.