

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
109th Council, November 27 to 30, 2018**

Statement on behalf of the Government of Canada

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to join others in welcoming Mr. Vittorino to his first Council meeting as Director General. Canada is looking forward to working with Mr. Vittorino and the entire IOM organization in making migration work for all.

Canada continues to rely on our strong partnership with the IOM to provide transportation, health and orientation services to the refugees and migrants destined for Canada. Last year alone, IOM supported the resettlement of 24,000 refugees to Canada, from 85 countries. These newcomers to Canada continue to make significant contributions to our diversity, innovation and economic growth.

IOM is also an important partner for Canada in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, stabilization activities and for longer-term development investments. Canada values IOM's responses to the needs of the most vulnerable. We encourage continued coordination and enhanced cooperation with UNHCR in responding to mixed refugee and migrant movements.

Canada greatly appreciates IOM's engagement in situations of internal displacement. With approximately 40 million internally-displaced persons at the end of 2017, the humanitarian needs are significant. With the 20th Anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, we see an opportunity for United Nations agencies, including IOM, as well as for states and other stakeholders to further develop a coherent interagency response at the global level and in the field.

Canada has an interest to ensure that the specific needs of women and girls are being met and that a gender-responsive approach is being taken in a

humanitarian response. Addressing sexual exploitation and abuse is a priority for Canada and we therefore welcome the development and implementation of IOM's New Framework for Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Crises.

We encourage IOM to fully implement the organization's gender strategy in its operations and ensure that the necessary resources are allocated for the effective implementation of gender mainstreaming and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence activities.

Mr. Chair, this has been a very important year for international migration, a period when states have joined together to share, compare, and debate all aspects along the migration continuum.

We eagerly await the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration in Morocco and the establishment of a global framework to support cooperation amongst states on this cross-cutting global issue.

We congratulate IOM staff for its efforts to support SRSG Arbour and her team in shepherding all aspects of the Compact – a momentous feat given the divisive and oftentimes xenophobic political rhetoric that has increasingly crept into the public discourse when discussing migration.

We now have a clear path forward paved by the Compact. Canada strongly supports the text and is pleased that it emphasizes the positive contributions of migrants, and the benefits of comprehensive, well-managed migration systems, while also acknowledging and drawing attention to the serious challenges that irregular migration poses.

Canada believes that the Compact is balanced, evidence-based, human rights-based, gender-responsive and child-sensitive, and upholds a rules-based approach to migration management. To that end, we would like to express our disappointment that some States seem to be reconsidering their participation in the Compact.

We would like to echo recent remarks made during the European Parliamentary Debate on the Global Compact on Migration earlier this

month: the Compact does not encourage migration nor does it discourage it, what it aims at is that migration takes place in a safe and orderly manner. Migration has been part of the human experience throughout history. It is our task to make it work for all.

Canada strongly supports the IOM's new role as the UN Migration Network coordinator and secretariat. We look forward to working with our fellow Member States and the Administration to ensure that that IOM will be poised to deliver on this role, while at the same time maintaining its capacity to respond to the priorities of Member States in addressing the needs of migrants around the world.

Key to achieving this objective is the identification of a funding structure to support the operations of the Network – one that is both sustainable and equitable. As a key priority for Canada, we look forward to making progress on this issue together over the coming days.

As DG Vittorino has mentioned before, there “truly has never been a more exciting or challenging time to work in the field of migration”. Thank you, Chair.