

**Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland**  
**30.11.2018**

**109<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council, 27 – 30 November, 2018**

Chair, Director General, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

Finland aligns itself with the statement made by EU on behalf of its member states.

Finland would like to congratulate you, Director General, on your nomination to lead the IOM.

We have a longstanding cooperation with the organisation. The IOM Country Office in Finland, also covering Sweden and Iceland, is celebrating its 25 years.

Finland also supports IOM programmes, <sup>like</sup> ~~eg.~~ cooperation with the local diaspora to strengthen health and education sectors in Somalia. We are looking forward to a frank and close cooperation with you. As leading organization on migration, you can count on our support.

As we approach the inter-governmental conference for the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakech, Finland would like to reiterate our support for the compact. We consider it as a balanced outcome and a useful tool for enhancing international cooperation on migration. We also welcome the role of IOM as the Coordinator for implementation of the GCM and Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration.

The global compact can contribute to sustainable and better-coordinated migration governance. It addresses the migration in comprehensive manner taking into consideration the whole migration cycle and different concerns of countries of origin, transit and destination.

Finland considers it important that the global compact includes actions to prevent trafficking and to help its victims. We also commend the focus on the vulnerable groups. If implemented correctly, the global compact can help to reduce the

number of those forcibly moved. The strong link made with sustainable development and the agenda 2030 are key factors in this.

The global compact does not undermine national sovereignty and countries can themselves choose which of the actions listed in the global compact they will apply. Each country continues to have the right to control its national borders and its own migration policies. This should be underlined as there is lots of disinformation spread in many countries. It goes without saying that Finland wishes that as many countries as possible join the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Thank you.