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Statement by

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of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the UN Office and other
International Organisations in Geneva

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Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The Netherlands is pleased to witness and participate in the growing worldwide discussion and focus on coherent policies for migration. Migration is increasingly seen as part of countries' internal and external policies. This requires a new approach in the organisation of government. Ministries of Home Affairs and Justice, and ministries with an international focus, will have to cooperate more closely. This also applies to cooperation between countries: migration problems cannot be solved within a national context. As IOM's Gervais Appave said on Tuesday, without policy coherence, migration's promise cannot be fully realised. Such a comprehensive approach calls for attention to be paid to the entire range of policies related to the migration process. This includes not only the admission policies of countries of destination, but also policies addressing root causes, integration, return and reintegration.

More recently, this approach has been complemented by a focus on the relationship between development and migration, including issues like circular migration, capacity building for migration management, and strengthening sustainable solutions for refugees. The European Union is currently discussing the topic of migration and development, and particularly the consequences for countries outside the EU. We commend the British EU Presidency for putting this subject high on the agenda. The report of the Global Commission for International Migration can be used as a leading document for broad-based discussions such as the UN's High Level Dialogue. I would like to suggest that the Geneva Migration Group explores ways of taking on responsibility for coordinating further consultation and discussions.

The IOM has proved to be a valuable partner in implementing various projects. Its programmes for qualified nationals are a good example. The Netherlands took part in the organisation's initiative on the Return of Qualified Afghans. We are also working with the IOM on a Migration for Development project for Ghana, which aims to help develop the health sector in the country. This is being done in two ways. Firstly, Ghanaian and other African migrants living and working in the Netherlands and other EU countries can transfer knowledge, skills and experience through temporary assignments in Ghana. Secondly, health workers from Ghana have the opportunity to acquire specialised training at healthcare institutions in the Netherlands. We believe the IOM

should continue to play an important role in the further development of programmes for qualified nationals, making use of the knowledge and experience of diasporas.

The Netherlands underlines the importance of close cooperation and coordination between UN organisations, IGOs like the IOM, and NGOs on the topic of migration. We also support current proposals on cluster leadership to strengthen the Collaborative Approach. Effective protection of IDPs means that the organisations involved work as a team. This requires leadership, adequate preparedness and coordination. We are pleased to see that the IOM has been involved in discussions on the future of the Collaborative Approach. We would be interested to know in what way the IOM intends to support the new 'cluster-led' response to IDP situations. IOM's experiences in the Pakistan emergency will be very useful.

For a long time, the IOM has predominantly been a service-providing organisation. The implementation of projects is the organisation's strength and should remain its main focus. IOM's ambition to play an active role in the international migration debate is legitimate, however it does imply that IOM has the responsibility to enter into closer consultations with its member states on such policies, short and long term, in an open and transparent way.

In this context I welcome the useful suggestions made by Mexico and I look forward to further discussion on the basis of Mexico's paper.