Thank you Director General, Mr Chair, Ladies and gentlemen it’s an honour and a privilege for me to have a few moments to present to you the 2013 edition of IOM’s Migration Initiatives, which you have on your desks and also, for the first time thanks to our Publications Unit, on the screen in the form of an e-book.

Initially conceived in 1998 as a compendium of projects needing funding, it has now become a strategic and programmatic document proposing responses and providing funding needs to address national, regional and global migration issues in all IOM offices worldwide.

In line with 2013’s international debate on migration and development and to prepare for the 2nd UN General Assembly High Level Dialogue the document includes a special reference to its programmatic, research and policy focus in the area of migration and development.

Each chapter starts with a regional context and some analysis of programme areas related funding needs, before getting into the specifics for each country.

The main change of this year’s edition lies in the fact that we have presented IOM plans and funding needs according to thematic priorities such as operations, Emergencies and Post-crisis, Migration Health, Immigration and Border Management, Migrant Assistance, Labour Migration and Human Development, and Migration Policy and Research. This will enable us to reflect achievements in the thematic annual reports, and we will strive to make more synergies in the future.

For 2013 IOM is seeking a total of USD 1.2 billion to implement its proposed activities worldwide.

Mr Chairman, Migration Initiatives is the product of a truly collective effort by many staff in the organization. Chiefs of Mission, Regional Directors, Senior Advisors and HQ’s departments all came together to outline their plans and priorities, share their vision and identified needs for the year to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, you may wish to use Migration Initiatives to make your funding decisions, we know some of you do and encourage others to do so too; but you may also use the document to discuss with us or with our missions your government’s priorities. You may use it to know where it operates and what it proposes to address specific migration issues in any given context; you may also use it to encourage new partnerships.

Finally Mr Chairman, Migration initiatives is for us a living document, which we will continue updating and improving so as for it to become a programmatic reference document for our donors and partners, and the donor relations division stands ready over the next weeks and months to address any queries, comment or suggestion you may have.

Thank you.
In the meantime you can get a copy at the desk outside and we’ll make sure to send you the electronic version as well.

Thank you.