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PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN

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STATEMENT  
BY  
SWEDEN

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General Debate

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr Chairperson,

I would like start by thanking the Director-General for your opening remarks and express our support for your strong leadership of IOM in a time when international migration is growing in scope and significance. Last year we commended IOM for its work to assist migrant fleeing Libya. This year has brought new challenges for migrants around the world, not least in the Sahel and in Syria. IOM continues to be an important actor to assist migrants in crisis and facilitate orderly migration.

Sweden is grateful for the good work carried out by IOM in conducting migration research, stimulating policy debate and offering practical approaches to various current and future migration challenges. We appreciate IOM's role as a reliable service provider in the areas of refugee resettlement and voluntary return, as well as IOM's work in administration of reintegration support. The organization's capacity building efforts within the broad field of migration management is very valuable.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today we would like to highlight a few key areas where my Government believes that the engagement of IOM is of particular strategic importance:

*First*, we value IOM as an **important humanitarian actor** and partner in the international humanitarian system. IOM's budget in the humanitarian field continues to grow. In this context, we appreciate the focus on Migrants in Crisis as the theme for this year's IDM, which has greatly contributing to the policy debate in this field. Sweden welcomes the new Migration Crisis Operational Framework, which provides an overview of IOM operations in different types of emergency situations with migration dimensions. We consider the framework an important internal tool for IOM to strengthen links and synergies between different sectors of assistance, and can thereby help minimize gaps and improve response in emergency situations. We fully support the resolution on this issue that was adopted yesterday.

We also commend IOM for its work as the global cluster lead for Camp Coordination and Camp Management in situations of natural disasters. We attach great importance to IOM's active and constructive involvement in relevant fora for humanitarian coordination, such as the CAP process and the Inter Agency Standing Committee. Still, we believe that there is a need to strengthen IOMs institutional capacity – particularly at the Headquarter level – to improve emergency response and coordination in crisis situation. We support the process to develop an IOM Humanitarian Policy Framework and we look forward to continue to follow this process closely.

*Second*, Sweden supports IOM's **continued focus on gender issues** and the implementation of IOM's gender policy in all of its programmes. We would welcome an even stronger focus on mainstreaming of gender issues with the aim to address the specific gender-related needs of migrants. We would also like to see clear results from applying IOM's gender policy, as well as a systematic use of gender and age segregated data in reporting.

*Third*, Sweden appreciates IOM's **preparations and active engagement in the UN High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2013**. IOM is the only global agency with migration as its primary focus, and member states should benefit from IOM's extensive experience and expertise. This will truly enrich the High-level Dialogue. We welcome IOM's plan to host a Diaspora Conference and the five round-table discussions in preparation for the High-level Dialogue. Sweden will contribute financially to the latter.

A proposed substantial topic of the High-level Dialogue is how to include migration into the **Post-2015 UN Development Agenda**. Sweden welcomes the input provided by IOM so far regarding this topic. One good example is the Thematic Think Piece on Migration and Human Mobility, which describes how migration can be regarded as a cross-cutting key enabler with the potential to contribute to a number of crucial development goals. We look forward to your continued contribution in this regard.

In order to mainstream migration in the development agenda, it is vital to increase coherence and cooperation within the international system, starting with the Global Migration Group. Sweden supports IOM's **active involvement in the Global Migration Group**. We look forward to the recommendations by GMG on how to improve coordination and efficiency in order to avoid gaps and overlaps and strengthen outcomes. As the only multilateral organisation fully focused on migration, we foresee that IOM will have a central role in the development of the function of the GMG.

*Last but not least*, we want to express our appreciation for IOM's **engagement in the Global Forum for Migration and Development**, both when it comes to the organization's substantial contribution to the work of the Forum as well as its voluntary follow-up of recommendations.

As you know, Sweden will Chair the GFMD from January 2013 until June 2014, and will host the 7th meeting of the GFMD in Stockholm in May 2014. Sweden will aim to launch a new, upgraded phase of this Forum and will have three mutually reinforcing key objectives: First on substance, we want to redouble our efforts to strengthen the development perspective. Second, on the process, we would like to reenergize the involvement and ownership by states and seek better outreach to other stakeholders.



Third, we hope that the Forum's sustainable impact on the global debate can be achieved by more stable and predictable funding, and by ensuring that the accumulated knowledge and good practice is shared and implemented more broadly.

In particular, we want to focus on identifying concrete synergies between development and migration and to attract development policymakers and stakeholders to the GFMD. The Forum as well as the international community at large has a unique opportunity to contribute to the global debate on how migration can be integrated into the post-2015 UN development agenda. Sweden is also dedicated to the continuation and the improvement of the Forum as a process and will proceed from the recommendations in the GFMD assessment report. We will work closely together with all GFMD stakeholders, on the basis of an open-ended, transparent and inclusive dialogue, and encourage stronger engagement of all actors.

Let me conclude by thanking the IOM staff for their dedicated work to help and assist migrants all over the world.

Thank you!