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Mr. Chairperson,
Director General,
Excellences,
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to begin by congratulating the Chairperson, Ambassador Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia and the new bureau of the Council for their election. I also like to thank Ambassador Hannan for his outstanding leadership. My delegation warmly welcomes Republics of Turkmenistan, Iceland, Fiji, and Marshall Islands as new members of IOM and International Medical Corps, ECOWAS Commission, United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF, Terre des Hommes International Federation, and CARAM Asia as new and continued Observer Organizations.

Mr. Chairperson,

I wish to thank the Director-General, Ambassador Swing, for his comprehensive report highlights the three important themes which are Continuity, Coherence and Change as guideposts for his second mandate as head of IOM. We are certain that these three themes are timely and related to the work of Organization. We appreciate the outcomes of the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 3-4 October this year. We realize numerically unprecedented human mobility as a big challenge all over the world.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today Afghanistan is facing multiple socio-economic challenges which results in movement of populations. A challenging security environment hinders refugees from returning to Afghanistan and often prevents them from resettlement. We are certain that the improvement of security and stability will

provide the refugees with more incentives and further enable the sustainable return.

Mr. Chairperson,

Afghanistan remains grateful for having enjoyed momentous partnership with the IOM, stretching through long years. IOM's programs are implemented in close coordination with national institutions in Afghanistan. Technical cooperation, capacity building, providing emergency relief to vulnerable families, facilitating sustainable return and reintegration to and within Afghanistan and construction of health and education facilities are the programs which are highly valuable. We strongly condemn the 24 May attack on IOM Compound in Kabul which caused civilian casualties.

I conclude my remarks by wishing the IOM success in all its efforts to assist and protect migrants throughout the world. I thank you Ambassador Swing, Ambassador Laura Thompson and the colleagues at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the excellent job that they are doing.