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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF IRELAND**

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Mr. Chairman,

Ireland associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. My delegation joins in welcoming the new members of the organisation and congratulates Ambassador Chávez Basagoitia on their election as chair of the Council.

Ireland would like to thank the Director General for his skilled and dedicated leadership of IOM and congratulate him on his re-election earlier this year for a second term of office. We thank him also for his comprehensive report on the activities of IOM during 2012. The report provides an invaluable analysis of the complex challenges ahead that IOM must work to address. With an estimated one in seven persons on the planet engaged in some form of mobility, migration has become a global trend, bringing with it challenges, opportunities and responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman,

The huge challenge of unmanaged migration has been brought home to us by recent tragedies at sea in which hundreds of migrants have perished, as mentioned by the Director General in his remarks. The heartbreaking reports of these events have highlighted the human tragedy that is too often bound up with migration, and illustrate the importance of placing migrant rights at the forefront of approaches to managing migration. Indeed, it is now more important than ever to recognise that migration is a process to be managed, rather than a problem to be solved. My delegation commends the tireless work of IOM to facilitate the orderly and humane management of migration and to uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Many migrants, particularly those in irregular situations, encounter circumstances such as labour exploitation, trafficking and sexual abuse, violence, lack of social protection, discrimination and xenophobia. Ireland acknowledges the special advocacy role played by IOM in defence of migrant rights and in conveying the truth about the enormous contributions of migrants to their new communities. Recognising the need to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration, we welcome the launch of IOM's information campaign on the skills and benefits that migrants bring to their host countries. We also welcome the news that the IOM is drawing up guidelines on migrant advocacy, migrant protection and migrant governance in order to enhance the organisation's capacity to respond to emerging migration challenges.

Ireland recognises the strong role IOM has played in policy discussions in the area of migration and development and in this context commends the substantive work undertaken by the organisation in contributing to the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development which took place earlier this year. As the leading international migration agency, the organisation has a critical responsibility in this area, and must have the necessary institutional weight in the wider multilateral system to meet that responsibility.

Migration emergencies, in particular those arising from conflict, require IOM's engagement in leading an international response. Through the development and application of the Migration Crisis Operational Framework, IOM has comprehensively responded to crises including populations displaced by conflict in Syria and the wider region; those displaced by conflict in South Sudan; and ongoing Arab spring-related challenges in North Africa. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the IOM for its ongoing efforts in assisting those communities in the Philippines which have been shattered by the impact of Typhoon Haiyan.

Mr Chairman,

Ireland acknowledges the value of strengthened international cooperation and collaboration to better address the issue of international migration. We recognise the importance of IOM's relationship with the United Nations, and encourage IOM's continued engagement in the efforts led by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and OCHA to further enhance the effectiveness of the humanitarian system through the IASC Transformative Agenda. As the global cluster lead for Camp Coordination and Camp Management in natural disasters, IOM has an important input to make into this ongoing humanitarian reform. We also welcome the increasing coordination between IOM and UN agencies, in particular IOM's close and effective cooperation with UNHCR. We also very much commend the work of the Director General in his role as the Inter Agency Standing Committee champion on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. At a broader level, we support the further deepening of IOM's strategic partnerships with the wider UN system, particularly IOM's engagement with the UN's Global Migration Group.

Mr Chairman,

What seems certain is that migration will be a "megatrend" for decades to come. Many of the factors driving migration can be expected to intensify in the coming years, leading to profound social, economic and cultural impacts. Securing a place for migration in the post 2015 development agenda will be crucial to ensure that migration challenges are effectively addressed by the international community in the years to come. Ireland will continue to fully support the work of IOM to ensure that migration is managed in an orderly and coherent way, a way that recognises the contribution of migration to the international economic landscape, and a way that protects and respects the human rights of all migrants.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.