

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE UN
OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

Check against delivery

105TH Session of the Council of the IOM

STATEMENT BY

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Mr. Chairperson,
Director- General,
Madam Deputy Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegate's,

At the outset, I would like congratulate you Mr. Chairperson for your election as a Chair of the Council, as well as to the other elected officers of the Bureau on this session.

In addition, I would like to make brief remarks on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for the first time as a full fledged member in the International Organization for Migration. We also congratulate the State of Samoa for their admission into membership, as well as to all other organizations and NGOs that obtained observer status.

In this occasion, we would like to note with appreciation recently approved projects from the IOM Development Fund that have direct impact on developing of our capacities in Migration Management. In our view, this is added value in the existing cooperation with IOM, and impetus for more dynamic and we believe even more productive collaboration on the national level and in the Regional context, as well.

In parallel, these and a number of already implemented projects with IOM since 1999 are direct support to the Macedonian Government efforts to further strengthen its policies in the areas of: humanitarian emergencies, immigration and border management, counter-trafficking, migration law, human development, as well as migrant assistance.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the Director's General report and his presentation yesterday. We do share your concerns Mr. Director General over the increased number of deaths of migrants. In that context, Republic of Macedonia attaches great importance to the issues that are listed as major challenges in your report. In particular, we appreciate the initiatives that are targeting further strengthening of partnerships and alliances with organizations and forums, which will enlarge the network in order to cope with the existing challenges in protection of the migrant rights. We also acknowledge the fact that report is underscoring the need of protection and assistance for the migrants in the countries in crises.

In overall, the report is giving clear policy guidance to achieve the goals that stand in front of us, in particular in formatting the strategies, programs and operations for the period 2015-2018 that are providing effective support to migrants. Activities, well planned operations and efficient practical work, in addition to the undertaken structural reforms related to the strengthening of IOM's administrative capacities will

serve as the best prologue in keeping IOM's role as a forefront runner in protection of migrants and their rights.

Mr. Chairperson,

In this context, Republic of Macedonia reaffirms its support for the strong partnerships with all stakeholders with the aim of further implementing various projects, in particular to protect and promote all migrants rights, gender equality and the protection of the most vulnerable categories of migrants.

In conclusion, We would like to reassure you of our active contribution in the work of the Organization and thus fully supporting IOM' activities and goals.

Thank you.