



Distinguished IOM Council Members,
Director General Swing,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to refer to the relationship established between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Save the Children, the world's leading independent organization for children. IOM's programmes and activities in the field of migration are of great interest to Save the Children and we wish to develop further a closer relationship with your organization around the thematic priority of children on the move.

The IOM Council presents a crucial opportunity to discuss why migration and child migration in particular are central for the development agenda to have a meaningful impact on the lives of the millions of children who are on the move today and the many millions that are likely to migrate in years to come.

To many children, leaving their homes, with or without their parents or a trusted adult, migration offers a chance of a better life, an escape from poverty and the opportunity to access education, employment and other basic services. However it could also expose them to violence, abuse, discrimination and other risks. Save the Children leads the Inter-Agency Group on Children on the Move that was formed in 2011 following a global conference held in Barcelona in October 2010 and, since then, Save the Children has developed several successful advocacy initiatives in cooperation with IOM, including in the lead up and during the UN CRC Committee's Day of General Discussion on Children involved in international migration and the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

From a programmatic perspective, Save the Children has developed a strong cooperation with IOM around migration programs in a number of countries and regions such as Mediterranean, East and Southern Africa, South and East Asia, Latin America.

Save the Children works in over 120 countries to save children's lives and fight for their rights to help them fulfill their potential. We work to ensure that concrete measures are in place to bolster national child protection systems that respond to the needs of all children, including children on the move; foster educational training and employment opportunities for children and young people in countries of destination, transit and origin; develop children and youth networks and finance appropriate structures that provide young people with opportunities to flourish. Partnerships between agencies that work for the protection and support of children on the move are fundamental to achieve these objectives.

Children on the move, like all children, have the right to live in dignity, free from oppression, violence and injustice. Save the Children has strongly advocated for the post-2015 framework to be based on the equality principle: no goal should be considered to be met unless it is met for all, regardless of their social status or economic background. The post-2015 framework would not be truly foster equality unless relevant targets and indicators are designed to be inclusive of and relevant for children on the move, who are amongst the most vulnerable children. It is key to focus on protecting children and young people from the risks of unsafe migration in accordance with international standards, ensuring access to services in

transit and at destination and protection from exploitation and abuse. Targets to eliminate harmful child work, sexual and other forms of exploitation and child trafficking are crucial. We need to ensure that a specific focus on children on the move is included as these children are disproportionately impacted by these forms of abuse and exploitation.

When crisis strikes, from earthquakes and flooding to armed conflicts, children may be forced to move. They often become separated from their families or other caregivers and specific support and protection should be ensured to them in these circumstances. Individual assessments of unaccompanied and separated children should be conducted to facilitate the analysis of foster care arrangements prior to identification of long term solutions. Resettlement and humanitarian admission should be considered when this is the only means to protect the unaccompanied or separated children against persecution or other serious human rights violations in the country where they are temporarily staying. Each child should be heard and his/her opinion should be taken into consideration in the identification of long term solutions, in accordance with the child's age and maturity. Each child should also be provided with information in a manner and language he/she understands, and adapted to his/her age and maturity; on the situation in which they find themselves, on the procedures that may apply, and on the assistance that will be provided to them and their families.

Family unity should be guaranteed if in the child's best interest, and procedures to prevent separation of children from their families should be put in place.

To achieve this we need the joint effort of all actors working for the protection and support of children in the context of increasingly mixed migration flows.

Distinguished IOM Council Members, Director General Swing, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me therefore to express my satisfaction at the prospect of furthering the relationship with IOM as the the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration.

Thank you for your attention.