

Thank you Mr Chair. The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement delivered yesterday on behalf of the European Union and its member states, and would like to make the following additional comments.

Mr Chair, let me first of all **congratulate** you, as well as the other new members of the bureau, with yesterday's appointments. Allow me also to congratulate the new IOM member states, and express thanks to Director General Swing for his comprehensive report to this Council.

Mr Chair, for the Netherlands, like for all countries in this room today, **migration is part of our history**, but very clearly also **part of our present**.

This year, which DG Swing rightly named 'the year of the migrant', we have seen a large number of people come to Europe to seek refuge. They flee from horrible scenes. The Netherlands grants them shelter and support because they are entitled to it. Others might not qualify for protection but migrate to seek opportunities which they do not have in their home countries. What they have in common is that many - **too many** - have lost and still lose their lives on the dangerous and traumatizing journey to Europe, or become victim to human smugglers in their attempt to reach Europe.

The Netherlands has always clearly expressed its views on how to end these dangerous journeys.

On the short term refugees should receive all the basic needs they are entitled to. This is being done on a growing scale by EU countries, but we fully acknowledge that much more is already done by refugee hosting countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan. My delegation wishes to express **deep appreciation** to these governments and their people for their immense hospitality. The Netherlands offers help throughout the region, at times bilaterally, at times as part of the European Union.

On the longer term, we need to think more about the reasons for migration. This includes more pro-active thinking about **root causes for mobility**. What can we offer as an alternative to migration? Which creative ways are there to

provide young people with a real perspective for a sustainable future in their own countries? As an example, the Netherlands minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation recently released 50 million euros to provide such perspectives in several countries in Africa, in close cooperation with social entrepreneurs and NGOs.

Mr Chair, the short term and the long term are of course not neatly separated. We should combine humanitarian aid with development aid where they reinforce each other, and keep them separate where the context dictates so. Also we have to be **more creative** in the way we spend our humanitarian aid. The Netherlands currently works with UN agencies to use 'Big Data' to the benefit of our humanitarian work, and we welcome IOM's efforts in the same field.

Mr Chair,

We often speak about burden sharing and responsibility. Today, the Netherlands would like to stress again that **these challenges require a joint, global response**. It cannot simply be for those countries in the vicinity of the crisis or for the countries affected by the influx of people on the move to deal with this problem.

In this light, the Netherlands would like to reiterate that, **in order to maintain public support for the key principles of our asylum system**, it is important that **those who have no right to stay are able to return swiftly and efficiently**. Improved cooperation on return formed an important element of the Valletta Summit earlier this month.

Mr Chair, in line with what was said by many colleagues, the Netherlands **highly values IOMs role** in helping countries to manage all these migration flows, whether forced or voluntary. In often very difficult situations IOM is able to help member states, and large numbers of people on the move, all over the world.

Mr Chair,

For the Netherlands, IOM **is and remains a key partner** in addressing the challenges in the field of migration. We intend to **solidify this relationship**. We value our strong cooperation with IOM in the field of return, and around the

globe on different issues related to migration management. As a long-standing project-based donor, we feel comfortable to enter into long-term agreements and become an even more strategic partner to IOM. The Netherlands believes that this ambition fits seamlessly in the ambitions of IOM to remain independent, flexible, and operational, while at the same time aiming for more formalized cooperation with the UN system.

Mr Chair,

My delegation would like to underline the **key role played by Director-General Swing**, under whose leadership IOM has delivered consistently in all the projects carried out around the world in partnership with the Netherlands, and played a key advisory role in the current refugee and migration crisis.

Mr Chair,

I will conclude by mentioning that in the first half of 2016, the Netherlands will hold the **Presidency of the Council of the European Union**, a crucial time for Europe in the response to the crisis. The Netherlands is committed to successfully address these challenges together with IOM and all its member states. These are our common challenges. Let us face them together.

Thank you Mr Chair.