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**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Adrian Vierița, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Romania
during the 106th session of the IOM Council**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director General,

Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU. We would like to welcome the new IOM members and to congratulate the new Bureau members on their election.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) came into existence after the Second World War, in the wake of one of the largest population movements in European history and it has gradually evolved into the global lead agency on migration. Nowadays, **Europe is witnessing an unprecedented migration and refugee emergency** and IOM has promptly responded to the call for joint action.

With the high number of simultaneous crises increasingly driving migration globally, current realities must be met by responsible migration policies, anchored in a long-term vision on human mobility.

The mobility revolution of the 21st century is here to stay and we need to better prepare for increasingly multi-ethnic and multi-cultural societies. We welcome the fact that **migration was recognized as an enabler of inclusive growth and sustainable development in the 2030 Development Agenda.**

This is a critical moment to highlight the positive contributions migration brings to states and communities worldwide. In this context, we praise IOM's efforts as a relentless advocate for **the benefits of planned and well-managed migration policies**. We also appreciate **IOM's work on the Migration Governance Framework** which is aimed at ensuring coherent, principled-based services in the development of national migration systems, while recognizing the absence of a "one-size fits all" model in tackling this issue. Given the cross-cutting nature of this phenomenon, we agree with the importance of a *whole of government approach* to migration, relying on strong partnerships at various levels.

As we enter the **SDG's implementation phase**, IOM should come as a natural partner in the efforts to identify relevant indicators to track how migration is successfully integrated in the various related sectors.

Against this backdrop, we welcome the adoption of **the resolution on IOM-UN relations**, with the view to allow IOM to continue to play its essential role in the field of migration, in a mutually reinforcing cooperation relationship with partners from the UN system.

Mr. Chairman,

As pointed out by research studies, there is a paradox of growing parochialism in the age of globalization as people feel threatened by its diversity. Stereotypical portraying of migrants is feeding the fear of the unknown and further deepening community divisions.

We agree with the Director General that changing the narrative on migration by allowing facts to prevail and rallying support around a set of shared values is key to adjust our societies to the changing global landscape.

The latest tragic events should underscore that fact the most powerful weapon against extremism and terrorism is a forceful reaffirmation of our common humanity, resisting the temptation of xenophobic and populist approaches.

Yet this is easier said than done, especially as we operate in a crisis mood. In our search for sustainable gains, we will have to strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation all along the migratory routes and wisely use development policies to tackle the root causes of the so-called desperation migration.

Mr. Chairman,

Romania's close bilateral relations with the International Organization for Migration have been further strengthened by the recent signing – in November this year - of a Cooperation Agreement between the IOM and the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This outcome reflects a successful, long-term partnership with the IOM Office in Romania in the area of fighting trafficking and voluntary return of vulnerable persons.

In this respect, we are thankful for the assistance rendered by the IOM in the process of repatriation of more than 1600 Romanian citizens, victims of trafficking or caught in crisis situations, especially in Libya, Syria and Yemen.

We remain open to further using the expertise of this organization in areas of strategic importance for Romania, such as diaspora engagement.

Mr. Chairman,

In a period of turmoil in the world, both national and international actors have to learn to deal with complex emerging challenges. In this context, we rely on OIM to further contribute to the global understating of migration and of its inextricable link with development. We commend IOM's strong leadership and we will continue to support the organization in delivering its important functions.