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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
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**Statement by H.E. Mr. CHOI, Kyonglim  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you, Madame Chair.

At the outset, I would like to welcome the new Chair of the Council, H.E. Ambassador Marta Maurás and extend our sincere thanks to the outgoing Chair H.E. Ambassador John Quinn for his contribution. Let me also extend a warm welcome to new members of the IOM, Cuba and Cook Islands.

I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Director General Ambassador Swing for his leadership. Since his inauguration as the head of the IOM in 2008, we have witnessed his presence in every corner of the world where humanitarian response and assistance were urgently needed.

IOM's notable achievements under his leadership responding to multiple and concurrent crises of forced displacement and irregular migration, including the current Rohingya crisis, deserve our special appreciation. With his dedicated efforts and constant commitment of the whole staff, the IOM has become a truly global leading organization on migration, earning confidence and credibility from the international community.

Madame Chair,

The IOM's joining the UN system represents an important milestone in the history of the organization. As the Director General rightly pointed out in his report, the IOM is now set to be connected to and synchronized with the UN in more effective and efficient ways. We are confident that the IOM will become a valuable asset in the UN system by sharing its virtue and strengths with the rest of system.

We have passed half way towards crafting the first-ever migration governance— global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration. We look forward to continued constructive engagement from all stakeholders so that the international community can transform our political commitment expressed in the New York Declaration into a reality in the global compact on migration.

The IOM has made significant contribution to the process of consultations for the global compact at the international, regional and national level with its expertise and knowledge, based on cumulated experience and global presence. We will continue to give our support to the IOM for playing “the leading role” as we move into a critical stage in the context of international governance next year.

Madame Chair,

The Republic of Korea has been making consistent efforts to deepen our close partnership with the IOM.

First, the Korean government has substantially increased its voluntary contributions to the IOM over the last decade, supporting activities in Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Myanmar and elsewhere.

Second, we have also expanded our cooperation with the IOM in responding to Korea’s changing migration environment. For example, one of Korean local government, Chungcheongnam-do Provincial Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the IOM this September. We believe that the MOU will be an important instrument in enhancing integration of migrants in Korean society who mostly came for marriage, work and study.

Last but not least, Korea is also a strong supporter for IOM’s engagement with the private sector. The Korean government has decided to continue its voluntary contribution to the IOM’s Private Sector Partnership Strategy that started last year. We hope our contribution can serve as a valuable seed for expanding the IOM’s activities with actors from the private sector.

Madame Chair,

As we face an unprecedented large-scale of migration challenges, the world holds high expectations for the IOM. I am confident that the IOM would successfully meet the dual challenges of assuming expanded responsibility as a global leading agency on migration and preserving its core values, namely, responsiveness, effectiveness, cost-efficiency, and independence.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the Republic of Korea’s firm commitment to work closely with the IOM in all of its endeavors.

I thank you. /End/