

**STATEMENT BY TURKEY
IOM COUNCIL**

Madame Chairperson,
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies,

At the outset, we congratulate you Madame Chairperson on your election and express our gratitude to your distinguished predecessor for his valuable guidance during the entire year. We are confident that we will also achieve substantial progress in our efforts under your leadership.

We are also pleased to welcome Republic of Cuba and Cook Islands as new member states and State of Kuwait as new observer state of the Organization.

We congratulate IOM on the occasion of its 1st anniversary of entering the United Nations system as a related agency. Taking this opportunity, we would like to once again thank to Director General Swing for all his efforts during the process of joining the UN system.

Madame Chairperson,

It is up to all of the stakeholders to work together to promote the mutually beneficial outcomes of migration.

In this context, Turkey, given her wide experience on hosting refugees and migrants is ready to bring added-value in the process leading to the adoption of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

By hosting more than 3.3 million Syrians and approximately 300,000 Iraqis and Afghans, Turkey assumes an important role in managing and containing mass influxes.

As the previous Chair of the GFMD, the current Chair of the Budapest Process and the host of the World Humanitarian Summit, we will take part actively in the process.

We would like to thank the Director General for his comprehensive report and reiterate our support to the work and efforts of the IOM under his able leadership.

Within this framework, we attach importance to the IOM's role in this process as the leading organization in the field of migration. We believe that IOM's achievements and operational responsiveness are very valuable.

Furthermore, as the Chair of the Budapest Process, we commend IOM's contribution to this platform, as well as its efforts as an effective member of the Global Migration Group with a view to creating synergy among different platforms and actors.

We would also like to commend IOM's work in addressing natural or man-made disasters and its efforts in the fields of preparedness, response and recovery. Moreover, we welcome IOM's engagement with private sector and diaspora. We reiterate our support to IOM's work on migrant health.

Let me also underscore the close and effective cooperation between Turkey and the IOM on various areas spanning from migration management to countering trafficking and migrant smuggling, from integration to humanitarian assistance.

Madame Chairperson,

Human rights based, coherent and comprehensive migration policies as well as offering migrants and asylum-seekers legal channels to enter and stay in destination countries and integration measures are also crucial. We should recall the enormous contributions that migrants and migration make to development.

There is also a need for fighting more vigorously racism and xenophobia and consolidating the common human rights culture, and embracing the diversity of cultures and religions. It is also of great significance to prevent the negative discourse against migrants and asylum-seekers that has the potential to feed radical tendencies.

We should exert every effort to make the Global Compact process a success. Turkey will continue to constructively contribute in the preparations of the GCM.

Thank you.