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Statement by
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United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

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Geneva

Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to have the opportunity to address the 108th Council Session of the International Organization for Migration representing the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is grateful for the positive consideration given to its formal application to be accorded observer status at the meetings of the IOM Council, and looks forward to actively contributing to the deliberations of the Council.

Migrants are particularly exposed to disaster risk due to their vulnerability and the likelihood to live in areas with deficient or non-existent, infrastructure and services, and in low-quality and fragile dwellings; and their movement may have been forcibly determined by disasters and the adverse effects of climate change.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, recognizes the importance of disaster risk reduction measures in the context of human mobility and displacement. It also recognizes migrants as a positive force and calls for their engagement in reducing disaster risk.

It is important, for instance, that disaster risk assessments take into account migrants, including through relevant data collection; migrants have access to risk information as well as early warning systems; and that migrants and displacement are taken into account in the development of national strategies, policies and plans for disaster risk reduction, and that national policies concerning migration do take into consideration disaster risk.

The development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration represents an important area for collaboration. Indeed, managing disaster risk is a critical component of ensuring the safety of migration, reducing its forced element and increasing its voluntariness.

As such, the Compact is a significant opportunity to address the disaster risk of migrants by integrating measures, including of a transboundary nature, to reduce disaster risk, including climate risk and the risk of disaster displacement.

The IOM is a very important partner to UNISDR and there is an extended collaboration in the context of the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, which was adopted to provide a more effective and coordinated support to countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework). The IOM's work in disaster risk reduction is commendable and UNISDR looks forward to continuing strengthening this partnership.

I thank you