

Mr. President,

Let me start by warmly congratulating Director General António Vitorino on the first Council under his mandate and thank him for his comprehensive report. I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Kebret Batora of Ethiopia for his nomination as Chair of this Council.

We support the statements delivered by the European Union as well as by Romania on behalf of a group of European states.

Migration is one of the most pressing political issues at global level and nowadays lies at the core of the European and international agendas.

We know that the challenges associated with migration are every day at the front of the News. On the other hand the everyday successes of millions of migrants are mostly private stories that don't make it to the News.

Migration is a complex phenomenon. Its management needs to involve global and regional organizations, States, civil society and the private sector. Its implications are multidimensional: security, but also the rule of law; development; migrant rights and Human Rights in general. These issues are interdependent and not mutually exclusive.

Mr President

Portugal has been for many hundreds of years a country of emigration. And for the last decades we have become also a country of immigration.

It is from this background that we believe that the reinforcement of international cooperation is fundamental to ensure the effectiveness of each country's own migration policy.

We need to address jointly the issues that migration raises, so that we can answer the challenges and potentiate the opportunities. For this we need to promote and strengthen multilateral mechanisms bearing in mind the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility through an active cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination. Cooperation and partnerships are also required for a coordinated approach to maximize synergies and to apply the necessary leverage by using all relevant policies.

Portugal will adopt in a few days the *Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* as we believe that this instrument will lay the foundations for a new governance model that will allow for a better management of migration flows.

The Compact will contribute to facilitate and reinforce critical international coordination efforts as well as to improve existing national and regional mechanisms. Though not of a legally binding nature, this instrument represents a political commitment for all States who support safe, orderly and regular migration respecting the human rights of migrants. It aims to protect the most vulnerable; to fight irregular migration and trafficking in persons; and to respond in an efficient manner to the impacts in the countries of origin, transit and destination. We very much hope that its adoption in Marrakech will mark the beginning of a new period in the global governance of migration, guided by principles of peace and security, tolerance, respect for human rights and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

If I can go briefly to matters of organization. We believe the reform process of the secretariat will contribute to reinforce the functioning of the organization after years of organic growth, new memberships and enlargement in the number and scope of its field operations. We agree with the priority given by the Director General to the internal reform process and welcome the steps already taken since the start of his mandate and the centrality he has placed on the human capital and experience of the organization's staff as its main asset.

We are certain that the reform process - which will encompass functional and organizational changes while preserving IOM's "operational DNA" and decentralized structure - will not only reinforce the foundation of the organization but will also make it better equipped to take up future challenges, namely its task as the leading coordinator of the *UN Migration Network*, whose terms of reference have been recently released by the United Nations Secretary General. We look forward to its full implementation in 2019. We also look forward to future discussions on the strategic vision for IOM.

I thank you Mr. President.