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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
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**Statement by H.E. Ji-ah PAIK  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

At the outset, I would like to join other delegations in welcoming the new Chair of the Council, H.E. Ambassador Negash Kebret Batora (Ethiopia), and extend our thanks to the outgoing Chair, H.E. Ambassador Juan Eduardo Eguiguren (Chile), for his contribution. Let me also welcome the new member of IOM, Uzbekistan.

As this is the first IOM Council following the election, I would like to congratulate Mr. Antonio Vitorino on assuming Director General of IOM at this critical juncture. I am confident that IOM will remain a truly global leading agency in the area of migration under your able leadership and expertise. Mr. Director General, you can certainly count on the continued support and assistance of the Republic of Korea for your successful tenure.

Mr. Chair,

We are living in a world where an unprecedented large scale of migration and forced displacement is a fact of life. No single country can manage and address migration without cooperation, solidarity, shared responsibility and engagement. In this sense, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, upon its adoption in Marrakesh next month, will pave the way for a more effective and enhanced management of migratory flows.

As the Director General pointed out in his report, today's global situation calls upon IOM to develop a stronger strategic direction and prioritization at all levels of work. For several decades, IOM has remained at the frontlines of humanitarian suffering. Member states, at the same time, recognize the need to enhance its policy capacity to provide practical solutions to migration.

The international community recently has entrusted IOM with a new responsibility of coordinating the UN Network on Migration and serving as its secretariat. In doing so, we must be mindful of the importance of timing and also need to avoid new layers of bureaucracy.

Despite progress made to date, my delegation takes note that the Programme and Budget for 2019 should be seen as a transitional budget. We wish to encourage IOM to take a closer look at its budgetary structures and human resources to be well positioned to respond to changing circumstances.

The Republic of Korea has no doubt that IOM will be successful in assuming its expanded responsibility, while preserving its own virtue – namely operational efficiency, responsiveness and flexibility.

My delegation will be interested in hearing the result of ongoing overall assessment of the organization including plans to strengthen capacity of staff and maintain balanced regional and national representation.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea has kept a long-standing strategic partnership with the IOM. Korean government, with its voluntary contributions to IOM, has provided consistent support for IOM's humanitarian efforts in Syria, Bangladesh, Nigeria, South Sudan, and other parts of the world.

Korea has been also a strong supporter of IOM's initiative which aims to enhance partnerships with the private sector. Business as usual approaches simply will not

alleviate current funding gaps. I am delighted to share that the Korean government will contribute to IOM's Private Sector Partnership Strategy next year.

Mr. Chair,

Reiterating the Republic of Korea's continued support for IOM under the leadership of Director General, let me conclude by expressing our sincere appreciation to the entire IOM staff for their dedicated efforts and continued commitment to rendering support to those in need. As humanitarian workers are facing increasing security threat, it is ever more important to ensure the safety of IOM staff on the ground.

I thank you. /End/