

**Statement by Romania at the 109th Session of the IOM Council
(27 - 30 November 2018, Geneva)**

Mr. Chairperson,
Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,

- The Romanian delegation fully aligns itself to the statement by the European Union and, at the same time, would like to present the following statement in a national capacity.
- My delegation also would like to congratulate Director General Vitorino at the beginning of his mandate and to wish him every success in this very important position. Equally, we would like to congratulate Uzbekistan for becoming an IOM member as well as the new observers for joining us.
- We have thoroughly studied the Director General's comprehensive Report highlighting the changes the organization is experiencing in adjusting to its new capacities. We strongly support DG Vitorino's assessment concerning the need that IOM should preserve its unique operations character, with a strategic review of its priorities and the necessary internal reforms that will strengthen the organization's transparency and accountability.
- This year, IOM has continued to be very active, in a wide range of places, with its staff working in difficult and dangerous conditions. The 200 personnel who are active on the ground in Libya are a case in point. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and selfless dedication.

Mr. Chairperson,

- Conventional wisdom has it that no state can manage migration alone. We all agree that migration today is a phenomenon that has taken a global scale and, for that very reason, it has to be managed on a global level and with global solutions. This approach is neither encouraging, nor discouraging migration. It

acknowledges the necessity of creating a framework aimed at making migration safe, orderly and regulated, fighting human trafficking and smuggling, managing borders and facilitating return.

- The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration that will be adopted in less than two weeks in Marrakech is the first project of this kind, bringing together countries of origin, transit and destination, based on the same vision of solidarity, engagement, responsibility and multilateralism. Romania supports the GCM and expresses its full support to IOM – as the leading migration agency – in its action of implementing and follow up of the Global Compact.

Mr. Chairperson,

- On the 1st of January 2019, Romania will assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and migration will represent one of the priorities of our agenda. Our approach places the individual and her or his needs at the center of our concern. We intend to continue to consolidate the line of dialogue and cooperation with third countries, in an effort of establishing an efficient and viable migration management.
- We also intend to continue and build upon the results achieved by previous EU Presidencies, in a comprehensive approach that will include tackling of legal and illegal migration, strengthening of the external dimension of the EU, with a view to deepening and diversifying the cooperation with countries of origin and transit, as well as destination.
- In addressing the root causes of illegal migration, we consider the promotion of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development as a fundamental means in achieving stability and prosperity and facilitating the comprehensive analysis that will allow the necessary action.

Mr. Chairperson,

- Romania, as an emerging donor, is committed and will continue to support the actions and programs developed and implemented by IOM.
- Our work together, through the national bureau in Bucharest, has encompassed assisted voluntary return and reintegration, integrated services for migrants, in the form of social and cultural dialogue designed to support the socio-economic and cultural integration of the migrants in our society.
- Through these actions, between 2015 and 2018, more than 1500 migrants have received information and advice about the options in the program for voluntary

repatriation; 250 migrants have received assistance in order to obtain the necessary travel documents and have been repatriated in a safe, humane and dignified manner. At the same time, 55 migrants have benefitted from vocational training programs, prior to their repatriation, while 64 migrants in vulnerable situations have received social packages. Assistance for reintegration in the country of origin has been implemented for 62 persons.

- On a global scale, these numbers may not be impressive. But they are the result of an open and robust cooperation that has all the elements to continue to expand and develop.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.