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Statement by the Government of Canada

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**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
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Statement on behalf of the Government of Canada

Mr. Chair,

Canada welcomes Lebanon as the newest member of the IOM family and recognizes the International Commission of Missing Persons in its new status as observer.

We would also like to congratulate all of the Bureau members on their recent election.

Canada values the essential role played by IOM as the leading inter-governmental organization on migration. Canada and IOM have a long-standing, positive relationship that is a fundamental part of our broader efforts to promote well-managed migration and to deliver needs-based, timely and gender-responsive humanitarian assistance.

Today I would like to take this opportunity to highlight certain distinct areas of the organization's work:

I would like to begin by saying that Canada is very grateful for IOM's efforts to combat gender-based violence. The Government of Canada condemns all forms of violence against women and girls and is honored to be the global leader of the Call to Action for Protection against Violence based on gender in emergency situations. We welcome IOM's continued commitment to this initiative.

Suivant les recommandations formulées dans les récentes conclusions du MOPAN, nous encourageons l'OIM à mettre pleinement en œuvre sa stratégie relative aux genres et à assurer l'allocation des ressources nécessaires à l'intégration de la dimension de genre. Le Canada appuie l'aide humanitaire structurée, fondée sur les besoins, coordonnée, opportune et axée sur le genre qui répond aux besoins précis et intersectionnels des personnes exposées à davantage de risques et plus vulnérables, plus particulièrement les femmes et les filles.

Canada would also like to highlight our appreciation for IOM's work on Protection against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. Canada strongly condemns all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse and thanks the IOM for its attention to this important matter.

Secondly, Canada strongly supports the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration by the General Assembly this past December, and we appreciate the constructive role played by IOM in its development and implementation.

To support its global implementation, Canada will continue to share its own best practices internationally, including by promoting regular migration pathways which can help others harness the benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration while concurrently acknowledging the challenges that irregular migration poses for both States and for those on the move.

IOM also has a fundamental role to play in the implementation of the Compact in its new role as the UN Migration Network coordinator and secretariat. We look forward to continuing to work with our fellow Member States and the Administration to ensure that as the organization continues to evolve, it will maintain its highly agile and responsive character.

Monsieur le Président, ceci m'amène à mon troisième point: le Canada est conscient que l'organisation vit une période très importante, ponctuée de multiples défis et possibilités. Grâce à une augmentation du nombre de ses membres et à un élargissement de sa composition, de sa portée et de son mandat, l'OIM bénéficie d'une occasion sans précédent de tirer parti de sa vaste expérience des opérations de migration pour appuyer les États membres dans la concrétisation de leurs priorités respectives en matière de migration.

Canada also strongly supports the reform of IOM's internal governance system in order to ultimately improve the quality of the Organization's overall functioning by driving continuous improvement and ensuring that IOM meets the needs and expectations of Member States, donors, beneficiaries and other key stakeholders, thereby safeguarding the Organization's ability to fulfil its expanded mandate.

Moreover, Canada encourages the use of the Working Group on Budget Reform to ensure transparency throughout the process.

Moving forward, we will work with Member States and the Administration to modernize the governance structure of the organization, including through more clearly defined geographic representation on the IOM Bureau – an issue that affects many Member States, including Canada. At present, the ability of some countries to fully participate within the organization is hindered by a lack of clarity as to which constituency they belong.

Mr. Chair, fair, inclusive and equitable opportunities for all IOM Members to be elected to the Council Bureau and to participate in all areas of the organization's governance is a high priority for Canada.

While we continue to work with all Council Members towards a solution, we would appreciate both the support and leadership of the Council Bureau and the Administration to find a solution to this issue.

Lastly, Canada welcomes the publication of the 10th edition of IOM's World Migration Report, a vital information tool for understanding current migration trends and pressing global issues. I can attest that the Report is used by policymakers worldwide, including at all levels of the Canadian government, academia, and civil society, and for that, we want to extend our gratitude for publishing such a valuable tool and reference.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to deliver these remarks.