

Statement by Ambassador CHEN Xu at the 110th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration

November 27, 2019, Geneva

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Director General,

I would like to thank Director General Antonio Vitorino for his report on international migration protection, the development directions of IOM and other issues. In 2019, IOM has made significant achievements by actively engaging in global emergency relief, providing migration services, and facilitating member states to build migration management capacity. As the UN migration network coordinator and secretariat, IOM has also provided important technical and policy support to member states in implementing Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). China appreciates Director General and his team's industrious efforts.

Mr. Chairperson,

The global migration situation continues to undergo complex and profound changes, with the rising number of migrants around the world and the expanding range of mobility. Migrants have contributed continuously to poverty eradication, social-economic development, and cultural exchanges. Nevertheless, with the issue of illegal migration further highlighted, organized migration-related crimes continuously

heated up, and anti-migration sentiment spreading in some countries, the migration management capacities of all countries require urgent improvement. Strengthening international migration management has become an important part of global governance. As GCM has provided an unique opportunity for international migration cooperation, the international community needs to join hands, build consensus and better coordinate actions. Under current circumstance, China believes in the following:

1. Recognize the positive role of migration to development, and apply the notion of sustainable development through the process of global migration governance. As contained in GCM, migration is a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development in our globalized world. Migration and development are mutually reinforcing and complementary to each other. Unbalanced development is a key source of migration, while migration is an important impetus of development. We need to promote sustainable development by paying more attention to tackle the issue of less development which is the primary root cause for irregular migration. Developed countries should effectively fulfill their development and aid commitments to developing countries, narrow the gap between the North and the South, enhance developing countries' capacities to respond to natural disasters and epidemics, so as to effectively deal with root causes of massive forced migration.

2. Cope with the challenges of migration through multilateral cooperation ,with a view to jointly building a community of shared future for mankind. Migration is a distinct feature of globalization. Global issues require global solutions. Building walls and fences doesn't make sense. It is even more unpopular to put one's own interests upon others or to shift tensions to other countries. International community needs to work together for a win-win situation and a shared future. GCM is an important step to address the global migration issue under multilateral setting, providing an important opportunity for

states to promote migration cooperation in an equal and mutually beneficial manner. Countries of origin, transit and destination should seize the opportunity of implementing GCM to strengthen coordination at global, regional and country levels, and jointly improve the global migration governance. China supports IOM, as the most important intergovernmental organization in migration, to play a bigger role in global migration governance, and will continue to actively engage in the work of IOM.

3. To implement GCM in accordance with the principle of state sovereignty and in line with specific national conditions. The issue of migration relates to entry and exit, foreigners management, social welfare and other sovereignty affairs. Implementing GCM should respect each country's sovereignty and leave enough room for states to implement their own policies. Meanwhile, different country stays at different social-economic development stage, faces different migration condition, and applies different migration management laws and regulations. Implementing GCM should adequately consider specific conditions of countries, accommodate the interests and reasonable concerns of all parties, avoiding across-the-board approach.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The relationship between China and the world has witnessed historical changes during the past 70 years. Openness has become a distinct feature of modern China with more mobility and exchanges between China and the rest of the world. The National Immigration Administration of China was established in April 2018. The administration has made dozens of measures to improve management and services, facilitating cross-border movements and making traveling and working in China more convenient for foreigners, including Belt

and Road Initiative related personnel. In the future, China will conduct more migration and entry-exit reforms to make continuous efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and further promote global migration governance.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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