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***Statement by Denmark***

*Check against delivery*

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Chair, Director General, Distinguished delegates,

Denmark aligns with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its member states and adds the following in its national capacity.

Denmark recognizes that safe, orderly and regular migration can be a catalyst for growth, welfare and stability, whereas irregular migration can have negative political and economic consequences for countries of transit, destination and origin. We agree with others that migration is a cross border phenomenon that requires strong international cooperation. It is a key priority for the Danish government to improve global migration management to reduce irregular migration which is unsafe and the cause of immense suffering for irregular migrants.

Managing migration and fulfilling human rights obligations should always go hand in hand. We regard the 2030 Agenda as the main vehicle to address root causes of irregular migration and to promote and uphold the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations, including women and girls. Through our development cooperation we will increasingly seek to build capacity for better migration management.

In this context, Denmark sees the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration as a useful and timely framework for improving international cooperation on migration, including preventing irregular migration and fighting smuggling and

trafficking, which entail immense human tragedies. We are currently in the process of considering a contribution to the Start-Up Fund.

We reiterate the fundamental importance of maintaining a clear distinction between migrants and refugees in order not to put the international regime for the protection of refugees at risk. We welcome the joint principals' letter of 25 January 2019 from Refugee High Commissioner Grandi and the Director General on how UNHCR and IOM will work together, and hope that this letter will guide IOM's engagement in all its work in humanitarian and mixed migration situations. We welcome the good collaboration between the two organizations and underline that this should be in full respect for UNHCR's exclusive mandate as regards refugees.

Chair,

We continue to attach importance to IOM's character as a responsive, efficient, cost-effective, and independent agency with an effective field presence. We underline that IOM should remain a *non-normative* organization. At the same time we fully expect and require IOM to be a *norm-based* organization ensuring respect for existing international human rights law in all its programmes.

We fully support IOM in its new tasks as coordinator and secretariat for the UN Migration Network. It is important that the Network becomes a success and that all UN agencies engage fully. Going forward, we would appreciate more frequent updates on the work of the Network.

Given IOM's new roles and responsibilities, it is all the more important that IOM's core structure is sufficiently supported. There is a need for strengthened internal capacities and internal governance as well as stronger accountability and oversight mechanisms. A continued focus on strengthening anti-corruption efforts and efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment is also of the utmost

importance. Transparency with donors regarding any cases of financial irregularities is an absolute necessity. We welcome regular updates on risk management and on the work of the Inspector General, and underline that it is crucial that the office of the Inspector General is properly staffed. We welcome the development of the Internal Governance Framework as a positive first step.

Denmark also welcomes the Director General's Strategic Vision, including its focus on climate change and migration. At the same time we underline that there is still a need for a clearer basis for prioritization and the development of a results framework for measuring the impact of IOM's work, including system-wide results-based management. As a donor of core funding for IOM, let me underline that this is an absolute necessity for us. We look forward to being kept abreast of IOM's implementation of the recommendations from the MOPAN assessment.

Reaffirming Denmark's strong support to IOM, we entered into a strategic partnership agreement with IOM in 2018 and have for the second year in a row provided core funding in the amount of 25 mill. DKK. Subject to parliamentary approval we will do the same next year. We welcome those member states who also provide core or flexible funding for IOM, and hope that more member states will follow suit in order for the organization to achieve a better balance between project funding and core funding. To that end we look forward to engaging in the working group on budget reform.

In addition to core funding, DK provides project funding to IOM in the amount of approximately 53 mill. DKK in a number of countries including to support border management and assistance and protection of migrants. From 2020 – subject to parliamentary approval – we will increase funding to IOM's efforts in Africa in the amount of 25 mill. DKK to mitigate irregular migration and strengthen migration management.

I thank you.