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**Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations Office
and other International Organizations in Geneva**

General Debate, 110th Session of the IOM Council

Mr. Chairman,

Director General,

Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

Please allow me to join other speakers in thanking Director General for his able leadership and steering the IOM's work. The IOM has been expanding its operations further, and the last months were marked by important discussions on the Organization's strategic vision and internal governance framework. In December last year, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was adopted by the UN General Assembly, and Montenegro has strongly supported the Compact as we firmly believe that the global migration phenomenon requires a careful, balanced, evidence-based and sustainable policy response which shall respect national competences and international law.

Mr. Chairman,

We have gathered here to discuss migration topics, high on the agenda in a multilateral context, for the UN System and for the IOM, as the aims of the Agenda 2030 cannot be fulfilled without taking into account intertwined nature of migration. The fast-paced changes within the UN, and emerging new challenges in the field of migration mean that IOM's leadership, in a rapidly growing organization, must seize the momentum. In this light, Montenegro supports the Director General's proposal regarding the top management team strengthening, and we believe that the solution has to be adopted in a consensual manner. Montenegro is pleased that the close cooperation between the IOM and the Government of Montenegro is creating a solid framework, in particular in the areas of border management, combating organized crime and corruption, illegal migrations, trafficking in human beings, etc.

In the previous period, Montenegro, while appreciating the importance of migration issues and the impact that the migration flows have on security and different social factors, has continuously carried out activities to establish a normative framework, as well as an institutional structure that will adequately respond to challenges in the area of migration. The Law on the international and temporary protection of foreigners in Montenegro introduces a concept to encourage a successful integration of foreigners into society and to guarantee a full protection of human, civil, economic, social, cultural and other rights.

We are also implementing the documents that the Government of Montenegro has adopted, that is: the Strategy for integrated migration management and Strategy for the Reintegration of Persons based on the Admission Agreement. We precisely defined the treatment of migrants, their rights, integration, readmission and return, embracing a rights based approach. We do believe that migration carries a potential, both for destination countries and the countries of origin of migrants.

Mr. Chairman,

Being from a relatively small country, that in all fora cherish a multilateral approach, I would like to point out a significance of regional cooperation. Although the main migration route is not passing through Montenegro, we are aware that intensive migration flows must not leave any state unprepared to provide asylum seekers with the life in dignity. Responsible approach to dealing with migration issues requires a joint action by all countries to address effectively the complex task of preserving border security while providing a better future for those who are facing the suffering. In cooperation with authorities from the neighboring countries, Montenegro has opened centers that allow the exchange of data and information on the current state and cases of border control, illegal migration, and cross-border crime. Strengthened cooperation will help to facilitate the safe migration and mobility of people through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Mr. Chairman,

Montenegro highly values the cooperation with the IOM, and we look forward to working closely in the future, in order to achieve the goal of a stronger Organization.

I thank you Mr Chair.