

Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands –110th IOM Council Meeting – speaking time 5:00.

### CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Mister Chair. The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and adds the following in its national capacity.

First, let me give a warm welcome to the Lebanese Republic as a new member state, and congratulate the International Commission on Missing Persons for obtaining observership.

Mister Chair,

for the Netherlands, IOM remains a key partner in the field of migration cooperation. The year 2019 saw continued cooperation in priority areas such as counter-trafficking, assisted voluntary return, data-collection, awareness raising and the provision of emergency assistance to migrants in need. We look back at fruitful discussions with the DG and his team on his visit to the Netherlands, in March of this year, and we stand ready to broaden and deepen our relationship with the Organisation as we work on a strategic partnership to structure our relationship for the coming years.

Mister Chair,

the challenges the world faces remain manifold, with migration dynamics becoming increasingly complex.

IOM as an organization also faces challenges. Over the past six decades, but particularly in recent years, the IOM has evolved and grown significantly, and has seen its role and position change. A quick glance at the Annual Report shows the broad and diverse nature of the activities that IOM is engaged in to assist both governments and migrants worldwide. This includes IOM's substantial role in the follow-up of the Global Compact on Migration. The Netherlands looks forward to receiving more information on what has been achieved during the first year, as well as the plans for the coming years.

Mister Chair,

in order to carry out all its activities and meet the many challenges, IOM's organizational structure needs to be strong, and strategic priorities with a clear link to IOM's core mandate are essential. Important steps have been set to achieve this, but more is necessary.

The Netherlands therefore welcomes the development of the DG's Strategic Vision, which acknowledges the importance of developing policy capacity, while retaining IOM's operational, on-the-ground presence, and close cooperation with other UN agencies and local actors. The Netherlands strongly supports the principled approach, with a focus on ensuring respect for rights, dignity and well-being of migrants. The Strategic Vision also addresses a number of the recommendations that came out of the recent MOPAN assessment, which was published in April of this year, and for which Sweden and the Netherlands were the institutional leads.

We look forward to seeing the Strategic Vision's implementation plan. We are pleased to see the update includes the future development of Key Performance Indicators and a clear and realistic funding base, which are indeed necessary for the Strategic Vision to have maximum impact. We are also keen to see the Strategic Vision come to fruition in several anticipated results based strategies, especially the thematic strategies and the data strategy. We would encourage a midterm review of the Strategic Vision, in order for it to be able to adapt to changing circumstances and new challenges.

For IOM to live up to its increasing importance and the changing role it has been given, it must be fit for purpose. The implementation of the Internal Governance Framework is crucial in this regard. The Netherlands would like to thank IOM for the update on the application of the IGF, which was provided shortly before the last SCPF, and we repeat our request for a roadmap for its reforms, with timelines and targets. As part of the IGF, it is imperative that the Inspector General's Office is adequately supported and we call upon the DG to ensure the IGO is adequately funded with enough flexibility to deal with an inherently uncertain workload. In this regard, we attach particular importance to the follow-up of allegations of sexual exploitation and harassment, and we appreciate the establishment of the "we are all in platform".

Mister Chair,

we are about to start work on devising our national strategy on our future cooperation with IOM. We think that the recent changes in IOM's expanded workload, role, status and importance, justify a structural approach to our cooperation with the organization. This also implies that we will focus much more on the institutional wellbeing of the organization, including issues like Results Based Management, ethics, transparency, accountability and oversight. Not because the organization is broken, but because we would like to work together on making it better.

WE consider ensuring that IOM is equipped to handle the challenges it is facing as a shared responsibility of the Organization and its Member States and it will require investment, both in terms of resources and close cooperation. We would like to assure the DG of our cooperation in the ongoing change processes of the coming years and look forward to working more closely together.

Mister Chair,

in closing I would like to thank DG Vitorino for his comprehensive report to the Council. The Netherlands encourages IOM to continue its good work, and remains committed to our constructive cooperation.