

Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands –111th 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 thank the administration and the chairperson for the reports to this Council.

Mister Chair,

This year, the world faced numerous challenges, many of which were caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Netherlands commends IOM for its response to the crisis, and we express our strong appreciation to the staff for staying and delivering, and their vast and continuing efforts to assist vulnerable migrants. A crisis that impacts human mobility to the extent this pandemic has, demonstrates the clear added value of IOM.

Mister Chair,

For the Netherlands, IOM is a key partner in the field of migration cooperation. 2020 saw continued cooperation on priority areas such as counter-trafficking, assisted voluntary return, data collection, awareness raising and the provision of emergency assistance to migrants in need, including throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Netherlands remains a strong supporter of IOM. We will contribute 6 million Euros in voluntary unearmarked funds for the years 2020 to 2022, and in 2021, we will start a multi-year programmatic cooperation with IOM, for an amount of 55 million Euros. This continued cooperation and the financial contributions are reflective of the Netherlands' confidence in the evolution IOM is going through. We therefore expect that the cooperation will continue to grow and deepen.

Mister Chair,

On many previous occasions, we have discussed the reforms that are necessary to ensure that IOM becomes fit for purpose, and is well equipped to fulfil the role it has within the UN

system. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic again highlighted the limitations IOM faces under its current financial structure.

In 2020, a number of important milestones were reached in the institutional reforms, including the strengthening of the senior leadership structure, first steps on budget reform, and progress on the implementation of the Internal Governance Framework. We commend IOM on the progress that has been made, but recognize that much work remains to be done.

For the Netherlands, priorities for the reforms and IOM's development span four areas. The first priority area concerns the strengthening of the organizational structures and internal governance, including through improved results based management, increased transparency and guaranteeing the independence of IOM's evaluation function. It also includes the strengthening of IOM's internal justice system. For example by ensuring that the Office of the Inspector General has sufficient capacity, including investigatory capacity, and ensuring that positions are well funded, preferably from core resources. We would also like to see further improvement on the accessibility of IOM's reporting mechanisms. We have praised IOM for the *We Are All In* platform before, and now it is key to make the information and reporting mechanisms more visible and accessible to beneficiaries. We also reiterate the need for a continuous, system-wide, effort to fight Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment.

Secondly, we consider the strengthening of IOM's policy capacity, data, research and knowledge management of vital importance. IOM's grown role within the field of migration requires the organization to improve its value as a policy actor, including through policy development, influencing and coordination. Harnessing IOM's vast knowledge and experience through good knowledge management is an important component of IOM's growth as a policy actor. Policy coordination and influencing based on data and predictive analyses of good quality will support a balanced migration approach.

The third priority area is a human rights based approach at the heart of IOM's work, with specific attention for particularly vulnerable groups, such as women and girls, and LGBTIQ+ persons.

Finally, the Netherlands will continue to support IOM in the improvement of its budgetary model in order to develop a sustainable core funding structure, with diverse funding sources, and based on results based budgetting.

Ensuring that IOM is equipped to handle the challenges it is facing is a shared responsibility of the Organization and its Member States and will require investment, both in terms of resources and close cooperation. If IOM continues to make improvements in the before mentioned areas, the Netherlands will explore possibilities to deepen our financial engagement in support of the Organization.

Mister Chair,

In closing, we would like to thank IOM again for the cooperation over the past year, and assure the DG of our ongoing commitment in the change processes.

Thank you.