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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
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**Statement by H.E. Ji-ah PAIK
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea**

546 words (about 5 min)

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to join other delegations in welcoming the new Chair of the Council, H.E. Ambassador Evan Garcia (of the Philippines), and extend my sincere thanks to the outgoing Chair, H.E. Ambassador Morten Jespersen (of Denmark). Ambassador Jespersen's leadership and his team's dedication have led us successfully through the discussion on strengthening IOM's leadership structure despite the challenges from COVID-19.

Last year, we witnessed the rising trend of people on the move, and therefore emphasized the growing importance of safe, orderly, and regular migration. In this vein, we welcomed the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM). We emphasized the importance of IOM's role as the leading agency of migration, including its mandate as the Secretariat to the UN Migration Network. We reaffirmed our commitment to better support IOM and highlighted the gaps and challenges.

This year, the COVID-19 outbreak has affected global mobility. The importance of IOM's mandate has become even greater as migrants are among the hardest hit. A large number of migrants is stranded, being exposed to various vulnerabilities. Our delegation commends IOM in its rapid response to these challenges from the early stages. To support of these activities, I am happy to announce our government's recent decision to provide additional 3.3 million USD of voluntary contribution this year for IOM's missions in Africa. This includes Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, where IOM's funding gap is most severe.

Mr. Chair,

We should maintain the momentum of the GCM to ensure a better coordinated management of migratory flows. In this regard, we welcome the first Secretary-General's report on the GCM implementation, which will be launched on the 1st of December. I commend IOM's role in preparing the document based on active engagement with multi-stakeholders. Also, we value the importance of regional reviews through which best practices can be shared and promoted.

Mr. Chair,

Our delegation welcomes the progress in IOM's reform. The year-long discussion on strengthening IOM's top leadership structure has culminated in our consensus at the 4th Special Session of the Council last month. Our delegation will continue to closely engage in the remaining process of selecting two Deputy Director-Generals who can best serve IOM.

Furthermore, we welcome the Workplan for IOM's Internal Governance Framework (IGF). It is the centerpiece for improving IOM's effectiveness and transparency and is therefore expected to contribute to the accomplishment of the Director-General's Strategic Vision. We thank Madam Deputy Director-General and her team for their efforts.

We understand, however, that such a transformation requires a significant amount of one-time financial investment in the coming years. We believe this funding issue is also closely related to our ongoing discussion in the Budget Reform Working Group. We look forward to continuing our discussion so that we can find a way to properly support IOM's core function.

Mr. Chair,

Let me conclude by reiterating the Republic of Korea's commitment to the work of IOM and our heartfelt appreciation to the entire IOM staff, for their dedicated efforts to 'stay and deliver' under these extraordinary circumstances. I thank you. /End/