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Thank you Mr. Chairman, Bosnia and Herzegovina Delegation wish to congratulate you on your appointment as chairperson!

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Director General Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Deputy Director General Ambassador Laura Thompson and their team for the hard work aimed to make IOM as efficient as possible.

The leading IOM role in the field of migrations, its fast grow, new energy which came with new leadership and trust built in the past years, resulted with new members and observers which joined this big and important family of ..... countries.

We thank Director General for his report and express our satisfaction for good presentation of the report and its contents. We are satisfied to hear that the financial crisis impact on migrations has been less severe than it was expected. We are also satisfy to hear about significant improvements within the IOM structure like staff rotation, gender balance etc.

Some information from the report lead us towards the conclusion that some issues require more attention in the future activities of IOM, as well as of the member states. Among those issues, there are some of extreme importance, like the fact that 50 percent of all migrants are women and another one growing anti migrant sentiments. We hope that IOM will seriously study these issues and in cooperation with member states work on them.

We welcome three strategic objectives that IOM team defined in October this year:

- To maintain the leading role of IOM

- to strengthen IOM capacities
- to increase recognition of migration's contribution's to the humanity,

hoping that soon we will be able to conclude that IOM reached all three objectives, for the benefit of all those who use the IOM services and contributing in that way, to the position of all migrants and states.

Bosnia and Herzegovina with estimated 2 million of different migrant categories, refugees, asylum seekers, labour migrants and others is very much interested in the activities of the migration organizations, especially IOM as a leading one in the world.

At the moment IOM came to Bosnia and Herzegovina, it was a country in a post-conflict period and burdened with common Western Balkans' challenges like trafficking and smuggling in human beings. In migrations aspect Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country of origin, transit and destination country. That was a reason the Government had to take serious measures to fight the consequences. There IOM's helped through different projects, in particular capacity building projects like *Training Course on International Migrations Law for Government officials* focused on irregular transit migrations, trafficking and smuggling in human beings and security in migrations, the project "*Migration and Asylum Strategy 2008-2013 and its Action Plan*" IOM assists and advises Government officials in charge of the Strategy, the project from 2009 designed with the aim to support the development of institutional capacities of the border management agencies and strengthening the border control.

Having in mind that the issues or problems that IOM is dealing with do not stop on the border of one country, Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the programs with the neighboring countries Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, carried out to reinforce

Border Police Cooperation as well as those of regional cooperation, currently going on, aimed to promote cooperation, coordination and harmonization.

Good cooperation between the Ministry of Security and IOM has been demonstrated in the projects:

- Implementation of Memorandum of understanding on the IOM program of *Assisted voluntary return and integrations*, designed for voluntary return of irregular migrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the countries of origin,
- Protocol on cooperation in implementation of the program of protection of the victims of trafficking in persons and their return to the countries of origin,
- IOM's technical support in editing of brochure on the *Migration profile* of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has had excellent cooperation with IOM field office in Sarajevo in the past ~~decade~~ <sup>decade</sup> and we use this opportunity to thank the office and IOM in general, for that.

We hope that the new reformed IOM will continue being active in our country and that the reform means strengthening and not reduction of its activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as in other countries.

Thank you Mr. Chairman!