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Mr. Chairperson, Director General, Distinguished Members
and Observers,

It is my privilege to take the floor at this 99th session of the Council of IOM on behalf of my Country. At the outset, the Ethiopian Delegation wishes to join other distinguished speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this important Session.

The Ethiopian Delegation also express its special thanks to the Director General for his Comprehensive report and congratulates him on his leadership, in particular with regard to his efforts to enhance IOM's overall performance. My delegation would further like to welcome the new members Botswana, Central African Republic, Lesotho, Swaziland and Timor Leste who joined the IOM.

Mr. Chairperson

Migration is a key feature of today's globalizing world. In a globalizing world, migration cannot and must not be addressed in isolation from its diverse geographical, political, economic and social interconnections. In light of this perspective, the Global Forum on Migration and Development and Regional Consultative Processes as well as inter-regional fora on migration

issues essentially contribute to the boasting of mutual benefits within and between regions.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation attaches great importance to migration as a key element for development. From this perspective Ethiopia is doing its level best in management of migration.

The Government of Ethiopia has formally acknowledge the importance of the Diaspora and the valuable contribution that Ethiopians living abroad can make to the development of their country of origin. This recognition has led to the decision to put in place a single diaspora policy that will span all governmental institutions and levels. This policy is expected to provide a unifying approach to diaspora engagement across the different Ministries and governmental levels. In this spirit, Ethiopia is continuing to establish and build upon its diaspora policy. To this end, the Government of Ethiopia is working to finalize a comprehensive diaspora policy that is expected to be implemented in the near future.

Ethiopia is working to establish further partnerships and relationships with the diaspora and continues to encourage diaspora investment in Ethiopia.

Mr. Chairperson

Ethiopia and IOM has excellent relationships during the past years on certain migration issues and it is our believe that this close cooperation with the IOM would further develop in the future towards more areas of cooperation.

In conclusion we believe that our cooperation will be as fruitful and as successful as it was in the past.

Thank you for your attention.