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Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General,

Let me join others in expressing our appreciation to the Director General Ambassador William Lacy Swing and his team for the hard work, making the IOM more efficient and ready for the challenges of today's world.

We believe that good management has significantly contributed to the global position of IOM as a leading organization capable to address and tackle even the most complicated issues concerning migration problems.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is proud to be among the first countries that joined the IOM family. The Organization now encompasses 146 countries, benefiting from the IOM huge experience by sharing best practices and lessons learnt, introducing new programs and implementing it with member states etc.

My country has a large number of different migrant categories, among them refugees, asylum seekers, labour migrants and others. Therefore we are very much interested in the activities of IOM as a true leader in the modern world in migrant issues.

During the past two years, a fruitful cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and IOM has been demonstrated like many times before, through different projects.

One of them is the Programme for Released Personnel of the Armed Forces 2010/2012 carried out by the Ministry of Defence and IOM as a partner. The program facilitates the social and economic reintegration of former Armed Forces personnel discharged between 2010 and 2012 through assistance in training and re-qualification.

Another good example is a project *The Support to Migration Management Capacities Programme*, financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, which was successfully implemented in the period from August 2011 to August 2012.

The Programme provides necessary human resources, technical and capacity building assistance to develop and enhance institutional capability of the Ministry of Security and other institutions dealing with these issues for strengthening the migration and asylum system in accordance with European standards.

Ministry of security and IOM as a partner were responsible for the project implementation. IOM assisted with administrative and technical support in development of necessary strategic legislative and institutional framework for migration and asylum issues. As a result of this cooperation, the following documents were delivered:

1. Strategy on Migration and Asylum and Action Plan 2012-2015;
2. Law on modifications and amendments to the Law on movement and stay of aliens and asylum.

Bearing in mind that the migration and trafficking in persons are common problems for the countries in the region, Bosnia and Herzegovina reiterates that without strong regional cooperation no country could successfully deal with it. We are ready to further deepen coordination with our neighbors to diminish and eradicate illicit activities in this field.

Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to underline excellent cooperation with IOM field office in Sarajevo during the past decade and in that regard I would like to use this opportunity to thank the office and IOM in general.

We are convinced that IOM will continue to actively assist Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts in order to further modernize, adequately monitor the situation on the ground with its technical support activities as a contribution to better security in fast changing environment of the modern society.

Thank you Mr. Chairman!