



**101 IOM Council Session
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**Address by Ambassador Ljubisa Perovic, Head of the Permanent Mission of
Montenegro to UNOG**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director General, distinguished delegates,

At the outset, let me join the others in expressing our appreciation to the Director General Ambassador William Lacy Swing and his team for their hard work. Let me also welcome the new members of the IOM, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Ambassador Hannah from Bangladesh as incoming Council Chair. Montenegro would like to align itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the EU, and would like to make a few additional remarks in its national capacity.

The outstanding effort that has been done by the IOM has contributed to its global position. The organization has taken important steps to enhance accountability and good governance, and conducts significant efforts to protect and assist vulnerable migrants, including crisis situations and humanitarian emergencies.

The IOM is an important partner to Montenegro. We value the activities highly as well as the ability of the IOM to deliver a wide range of services for the effective, efficient and humane management of migration in all its forms. We would like to thank the IOM for their productive cooperation in several areas, such as: providing advisory and operational support in the efforts to strengthen the country's migration management capacity, including improvements to border controls, efforts to curtail irregular migration and trafficking in persons as well as efforts to promote labor migration and development. In addition, we would like to express our willingness for the deepening of the cooperation, particularly when bearing in mind that the challenges ahead of us will be even greater.

An active implementation of the migration policies requires a comprehensive international cooperation. Having in mind that Montenegro has started negotiations with the EU, and that every step on the road to EU accession is followed by the proportional increase of the number of illegal migrants, defining the sources and areas illegal migrants are coming from is one of the first steps in the battle with illegal migration. In that context, Montenegro would like to welcome the strategic partnership between the EU and the IOM. We would also like to welcome the Memorandum of Understanding between IOM and UNDP, because it fosters effective cooperation between the UN system and IOM in the field of migration and development.

Montenegro is conducting numerous activities to manage migration and the Government of Montenegro has adopted important policies. By adopting the Strategy of Integrated Migration of Montenegro and the Strategy of Reintegration of Persons that are returned based on the agreement on readmission, Montenegro defined a future direction for a versatile action regarding the flow of migration

Montenegro pays particular attention to regional cooperation and takes active part in the field through the MARRI (Center) Initiative which deals with the issue of migration management in the Western Balkans by promoting a comprehensive, integrated and coherent approach to migration.

Mr. Chairman, Director General Ambassador Swing,

I firmly believe that the IOM will continue to assist Montenegro on its path of sustainable development and I am looking forward to a continuation of our productive cooperation on both an institutional and personal level.

Thank you for your attention.