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COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION

105th Session

**STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR RAIMONDS JANSONS, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA**

Mr. Chairman, Director - General, ladies and gentlemen,

first of all I congratulate Ambassador of Ghana on his election to the chairmanship of the IOM Council. We also welcome Samoa as a new member of the IOM.

Latvia associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Latvia would like to thank the Director – General for his skilled and dedicated leadership of IOM. We also thank him for his comprehensive presentation. The multifunctional role of IOM is getting increasingly important as migration has become a global trend, bringing with it not only opportunities, but also challenges and responsibilities.

2014 has been an unusual year for IOM, especially in the fields of armed conflicts and humanitarian challenges. We appreciate IOM's efforts in response to four "Level Three" emergencies in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan and the Central African Republic, as well as engagement in addressing Ebola outbreak in West Africa. We acknowledge important role of the IOM's humanitarian policy and therefore support necessity for a closer coordination with the UN system. We also want to take this opportunity to commend the staff of IOM for their efforts and dedication to deliver in high risk areas.

During the 2013 session the UN General Assembly held the Second High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development and adopted the Declaration emphasizing the centrality of human rights and positive contribution migrants can bring to development. Now it is important to ensure that priorities declared in this Declaration become a reality. In this regard we welcome the efforts IOM has taken in order to achieve the aims of this Declaration.

In particular, we welcome IOM's work to engage, enable and empower diaspora communities, and promote them as development actors. We followed with interest the discussions of the workshop that was held October this year within the framework of the International Dialogue on Migration concentrating on effects of migration

on families. Discussions well reflected both, positive and negative effects of migration, and raised awareness of the significant implications this phenomenon brings to the international development. We are confident that the International Dialogue on Migration of 2015 on migrants and cities will further contribute to this discussion.

We also welcome IOM's initiatives towards lowering the costs of migration. In particular, we welcome the initiative of IOM in promoting ethical recruitment practices and development of the International Recruitment Integrity System. This instrument will not only be important tool in promotion of ethical recruitment principles, but also will serve as a safeguard against the risks of human trafficking and exploitation.

Mr. Chairman,

during this year the international community has engaged in preparation of the several landmark events that will set priorities and shape the future agenda of the international community for the coming years. Ever growing phenomenon of migration with its benefits and challenges shall be well reflected in these processes. In this regard we welcome efforts of IOM to promote the inclusion of migration on the United Nations post-2015 agenda. Special expertise of IOM is important in the negotiations of post-2015 framework of disaster risk reduction. We also believe that unique role of IOM is important in the preparatory process of the World Humanitarian Summit with an aim to achieve more effective and responsive global humanitarian system.

Mr. Chairman,

well-managed migration will be of high priority on agenda of the Latvian presidency at the Council of the European Union during the first semester of 2015. In this regard we intend to promote implementation of the existing instruments of the European Union in the area of legal migration. We also intend to continue our engagement and cooperation with the countries outside the European Union with a purpose to further strengthen our dialogue in the field of migration issues. In this regard let me stress the importance we attach to partnership and cooperation with IOM as the leading international organization for migration in achieving our common aims. Let me also reassure you of our continuous support to the work the IOM is performing worldwide.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.