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STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF IRELAND

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Mr. Chairman,

Ireland associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished Deputy Minister of Poland on behalf of the European Union. My delegation joins in welcoming the new members of the organisation and congratulates Ambassador Strohal on his election as chair of the Council.

We wish to commend the Director General for his skilled and dedicated leadership of the Organisation. We thank him for his comments both in his report to the Council at its opening meeting and in his statement prior to the opening of this general debate, which provided some timely reflections on the state of the Organisation in its sixtieth year and the current realities of international migration.

Mr. Chairman,

In commemorating the 60th anniversary of IOM, we commend its tireless work since its establishment in 1951 to ensure the orderly and humane management of migration and to uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of an IOM office in Ireland. Over the past decade, IOM has worked closely with the Department of Justice and Equality in Ireland to implement successful and much-valued programmes, including the provision of training for Government officials on measures to counter human trafficking and the provision of voluntary assisted return and reintegration programmes.

IOM has worked hard to promote international cooperation on migration issues, encouraging partnership among many agencies and entities. We commend IOM for its support for the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The GFMD Concluding Debate which took place here in Geneva last week provided much food for thought on its central theme: Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation. We look forward to the UN General Assembly's second High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013, which will provide the opportunity to take stock of the achievements to date and to consider the way forward.

The challenges facing IOM will continue to grow in the coming years. In particular, migration emergencies arising from situations of conflict require IOM's engagement in leading the international response. We are seeing rolling emergencies, as evidenced this year in Cote d'Ivoire, Libya and the Horn of Africa. Factors such as climate change, urbanisation, and food insecurity are playing a growing role in displacement. New ways need to be found to ensure that the needs of migrants can be addressed, and their human rights protected. We support IOM in its efforts to augment its management capacities in order to cope with increasingly complex movements of people and their needs, and in particular its work to ensure that the Organisation's emergency response capacities are strengthened.

IOM has achieved a great deal in providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, and in responding to the migration aspects of humanitarian emergencies. We would particularly wish to highlight the IOM's key role in the international response to the flow of migrants from Libya earlier this year. Ireland was impressed with IOM's quick and effective response to this emergency, and was very happy to provide € 1 million in support for IOM's work to evacuate migrant workers and other civilians forced to flee from the conflict, including those who had been trapped in the besieged city of Misurata.

The Director General has given a clear and strategic presentation of the challenges facing IOM: the state of the organisation as well as current realities, future frontiers.

What seems certain is that migration will be a "megatrend" for decades to come. The World Migration report rightly states that we now need to move ahead far more clearly to build capacities for change: migration and development, labour mobility, irregular migration, patterns of integration, environmental change. It will not be easy for the international community and for individual states to fine tune in any substantial way such interlocking and uncertain dynamics in terms of causes and effects.

What this does mean is that IOM must be at the forefront of proposing and planning joint actions and closer inter-state cooperation. And it also means that seeking to strengthen patterns of stability and predictability in migration flows will rest not only on inter-state cooperation in other fora but on the expertise and agenda setting role of IOM.

The four rubrics mentioned by the Director General – communication; strategic partnerships; capacity building for migration management and policy and scenario development are not only a "high road" but the only realistic way forward.

Over the years, IOM has protected and served migrants just as it has also, in this role, served member States. The balance can sometimes be uneasy: the demands too great on resources, the challenges and trends too uncertain for States to address migration with vision as well as practicality but there is no choice. My Delegation would like to see a strong focus in all of this on the rights of migrants and on their contribution, something too often ignored. We welcome the strong leadership of the Director General on this and his pointing out truths that cannot be brushed aside. Last week, the World Bank noted the impact of remittances on developing countries, and their essential role in the alleviation of poverty. In 2011, these remittances amounted to US\$350 billion, approximately three times the amount of official development aid. The economic contribution of

migrants to host countries and countries of origin is a dimension which is not given sufficient attention in discussion of migration.

In highlighting the importance of IOM's multi-faceted relationship with the United Nations, Ireland encourages IOM's continued engagement in the current efforts led by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and OCHA to further enhance the effectiveness of the humanitarian system by improving leadership and accountability. We welcome the increasing cooperation and coordination between IOM and UN agencies, in particular UNHCR. We also welcome IOM's active participation in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and support the further deepening of IOM's strategic partnerships with the wider UN system. As the global cluster lead for Camp Coordination and Camp Management in natural disasters, IOM has an important input to make into ongoing humanitarian reform.

As we mark the 60th anniversary of IOM, it is appropriate to examine the increasingly complex dimensions of international migration. In the years ahead, migration will remain a megatrend, and will have profound social, economic and cultural impacts. Many of the factors driving migration can be expected to intensify, and the increasing effects of environmental degradation and climate change will add to the mosaic of complex and interlinked challenges. IOM's role in ensuring that migration is managed in an orderly and humane way will be more important than ever before in addressing these challenges. We congratulate IOM on the progress achieved to date in undertaking the reform required to fulfil this role, and offer our full support as it enters its 61st year.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.