

**Statement by H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam**  
**On the Occasion of the Maldives' Admission as a Member of the IOM**

Thank you Chair.

The Maldives is delighted and deeply honoured to be admitted as a member of this august Organization. I would like to thank the membership for supporting this important step.

The Maldives is in the particular situation of being a Small Island Developing State, until very recently a member of the UN's Least Developed Country category, which nevertheless is a major destination country for economic migrants. Indeed, economic migrants, especially from elsewhere in South Asia, make up around one quarter of our total population.

The Maldives greatly values the contribution they have made and continue to make to our economy and society. However, the situation also raises a range of challenges, especially relating to our human, technical and financial capacity to manage such population movements.

That is why the Maldives decided, last year, to apply for membership of the IOM. We hope our membership will allow us to benefit from IOM expertise and support in order to sustainably manage migration, both internal and external, in a way which fully benefits the migrants themselves and the wider Maldivian society. Thank you