

Statement

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Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, colleagues,

International Organization for Migration is honored to participate in the APFSD. We would like to thank ESCAP for organizing the Forum to continuously facilitate a strong Regional voice to be reflected in the global fora as the implementation moves forward with the Agenda 2030.

The Agenda 2030 recognizes the “positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth”, while noting the “multidimensional reality” of migration. Indeed the target 10.7 in particular (well managed migration policies) creates greater impetus for governments to mainstream migration into development policies to promote dignified, orderly and safe migration. There are also migration-related targets across the SDG that are important to all together make sure the well-being of migrants and their families such as education, eradication of forced labour and human trafficking, health, promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including for migrant workers, reducing the costs of migrant remittances, sustainable cities, climate change, significant reduction of the number of people affected by disasters. The humanitarian nexus to development is critical as unfortunately too much migration is forced (e.g. the World Humanitarian Summit and the GA Summit of a large movement of migrants and refugees this September).

In the Asia-Pacific region, migration remains a significant factor as an increased mobility and migration is projected as the regional connectivity deepens. They has been highlighted in the deliberations yesterday and today on the regional priorities and the SDG 10 discussions – that migration already significantly contribute to development and yet reducing vulnerability of people on the move remain a challenge as much of the migration is temporary and irregular in this Region. Such trends, opportunities and challenges are also reflected in the several **joint initiatives** by the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)’s Thematic Working Groups – Regional Migration Report by the TWG on the International Migration; “Switch On” Report, launched last week, by the TWG Youth as the youth being a major group of people on the move. Migration is a major factor in the urbanization in this Region, and its complex nexus to urbanization remains important to address many of the opportunities and challenges the Cities face (not to repeat the discussions just held) but also to take advantage to contribute to the rural development in the context of the SDG implementation, to leave no one behind (as the Conference on Migrants and Cities last October and the World Migration Report 2015 also shown).

Mr. Chair...

As migration is multi-dimensional, it is important to have a good **migration policy and governance**. Good data and strong partnership is key. Good data is essential both to the policy making but to put a human face to migration in doing so to address much of the toxic discourse taking place, and we all

should do more. Together with partners, IOM is contributing through its Migration Governance Framework and the recently established Global Migration Data Centre. In this regard, the UN Statistical Commission last month adopted a global SDG indicator on the number of countries implementing well-managed migration policies. As part of the resource agencies to the IAEG, IOM has been working with the UN DESA toward a simple methodology, as well as a wider one with the EIU- to support the efforts by the Member States and ultimately regions. In addition to the mechanisms and works already in place on the statistics to build on – as facilitated and referred by the ESCAP colleagues, this Region also has the advantage of having several well-functioning migration partnership and dialogues – Regional Consultative Processes – that can be helpful to a regional level review and sharing of good practices, as well as through a thematic review. Such partnership and joint efforts at a regional and sub-regional level could be useful in order to capture the specific characteristics of these inter and intra-regional migration pertaining to the SDG implementation and reporting - by mainstreaming into the existing ones so as not to add burdens, but to greatly support, the ongoing national efforts on the SDG implementation and reporting.

Mr. Chair..

Maximizing the development potential of migration for migrants, families and societies is important to leave truly no one behind. IOM looks forward to continuing to play its part through collaborative efforts in the Region together with all the partners.

Thank you.