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STATEMENT

Michele Klein Solomon

Permanent Observer to the UN, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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“New Trends in Migration: Demographic Aspects”

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Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) welcomes the opportunity to take the floor today to address the 46th session of the Commission on Population and Development convened under the theme “New Trends in Migration: Demographic Aspects”. We appreciate the constructive approach of the Chair and CPD Bureau as well as the enriching deliberations of the Commission on migration trends and in particular its demographic aspects.

The theme is timely as the international community prepares to hold a series of events relevant to migration and development, including the United Nations General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) on 3-4 October 2013 and as we move towards the 20th anniversary of the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development’s (ICPD).

Both events will bring together Member States of the United Nations (UN), UN entities, international organizations, CSOs and the private sector; and as such, present a unique opportunity for the various stakeholders to jointly lay the foundation for improved policies and practices at international, regional and local levels that enhance the development outcomes of international migration for migrants and societies. In addition, the 2013 HLD and the 2014 ICPD provide a platform for the promotion of the human rights of all migrants, protection of the most vulnerable, and for the leveraging of the human development potential of migration in the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda.

Migration lies at the heart of the International Conference on Population and Development's (ICPD) Programme of Action with its chapters IX dedicated to internal migration and X dedicated to international migration. It is a key enabler for equitable, inclusive and sustainable social and economic development to the benefit of countries of origin and destination, as well as to the human development of migrant men, women and children. To fully realize this potential, the human rights of all migrants must be respected, promoted, protected and fulfilled, and human development aspects of migration better reflected in relevant national and global development policies and initiatives, including in the post-2015 development agenda.

Migration is a reality that is here to stay and the question should now no longer be whether to have migration or not but how to effectively manage migration in a safe, orderly and humane way that promotes human development and benefits migrants and societies alike. Migration trends today indicate that the number of migrants is set to rise due to a number of factors discussed throughout the CPD session, including the changing dynamics of population size and aging; increases in rural – urban migration, as well as South – South and international migration. There is therefore need to plan for and facilitate greater human mobility, recognizing that migration and mobility are both necessary and inevitable in the 21st century.

IOM is committed to and dedicated its activities to multi-stakeholder dialogue, partnership and cooperation on the areas set out in the UN Secretary General's report and deliberations on the CPD resolution to enhance the benefits of migration while minimizing associated challenges. IOM believes that the 2013 HLD represents an important opportunity to improve the governance of migration, as well as the migration-development nexus in particular, at local, national, regional and global levels, while keeping the rights and well-being of migrants at the centre of the debate. To this end, and as more elaborately articulated in its position paper on HLD, which we have shared with Member States and other stakeholders, the CPD, 2013 HLD and related events could make progress in the following six key areas and attach to this statement,

1/ Improve public perceptions of migrants

- Call for a fundamental shift in the public perception of migration, as a process to be managed not a problem to be solved. Specifically, move away from a narrow and inadequate view of the phenomenon simply as an escape from poverty with a negative impact on host communities to an acknowledgement of the important role migrants can and do play as partners in host and home country development.

2. Factor migration into development planning

- Encourage integration of migration and human mobility into development and broader sectoral planning, at local, national and global levels and both in developing and developed countries. Specifically, recognize that migration today is relevant to all three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and that migration needs to be appropriately factored into the post-2015 UN development agenda, setting clear targets.

3. Protect the human rights of all migrants

- Ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants. Specifically, promote a more rights-based approach to migration that ensures access by migrants to their social and economic rights, taking into account differentiated vulnerabilities based on gender, age, health, legal status and other factors.

4. Manage migration in crisis situations

- Draw attention to the implications of humanitarian crises for migration and migrant populations, including in terms of protection and development. Specifically, consider the role of human mobility in disaster risk reduction strategies, disaster preparedness, national climate change adaptation programmes, and sustainable urban planning.

5. Enhance evidence building and knowledge based policymaking on migration

- Raise the quality of research and data collection on migration. Specifically, invest in more systematic evaluation and impact assessments of migration policies and migration and development initiatives, including in developing adequate capacities at national and global levels, non-governmental actors from civil society, the private sector and migrants themselves.

6. Promote coherent and participatory policymaking

- Improve policymaking processes at national, regional and international levels through the effective participation of a range of stakeholders, bringing together, amongst others, ministries of labor, migration, development, health and environment, as well as relevant international actors.

IOM will continue to offer support to the CPD deliberations and in making the 2013 HLD and subsequent ICPD 2014 review successful forums to enhance international cooperation and partnership on migration. So that migrants and migration can achieve their full development potential.

Thank you.