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**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

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Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at this momentous Summit. I would first like to thank and congratulate both the Government of Turkey for hosting us and the Secretary General for initiating the World Humanitarian Summit process in 2013, a bold decision which was long overdue. I would also like to pay tribute to the many stakeholders around the world who have been involved in contributing to this vital process over the last few years.

Never before has our world faced so many simultaneous complex humanitarian crises, and never before has the global humanitarian system been stretched to such an extent. We must seize the opportunity that this Summit presents; to change, to do better, to find new ways of working together and to leave no one behind. To do this, and to genuinely improve the way we operate, we must engage with a sense of humility, but also with innovative and practical thinking, and ensure that the needs and voices of the affected are at the centre of our discussions. We must also make it our highest priority to reaffirm and strengthen the systems underlying the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence which govern humanitarian action, yet are increasingly ignored in many of the contexts in which we operate.

1. IOM is pleased that the Secretary-General's Report recognizes vulnerable mobile populations, internally displaced persons and migrants in situations of crisis as affected populations in need of greater access to humanitarian aid. Mobile populations – including victims of trafficking, internally displaced persons, migrants in situations of crisis, unaccompanied minors – must be afforded the same protection of their human rights as that extended to all other affected populations in times of crisis. In this regard, the humanitarian system must not overly categorize populations of concern but instead focus on the needs and rights of all – whether refugees, IDPs, migrants or host communities. Moreover, access to humanitarian assistance must be ensured across all vulnerable groups, regardless of their sex, age, social, religious or political affiliation. The needs and universal rights of all affected populations must be at the heart of humanitarian action.
2. As the world's only global agency focusing on migration, IOM has dedicated considerable time and resources over the past two years towards highlighting the mobility dimensions of crises. Such concerns have been driven by major displacement events



witnessed over the past five years, with hundreds of thousands of migrants whose lives have been placed at great risk, and millions more fleeing their homes, in search of protection and safety. IOM however recognizes that progress may only be achieved if humanitarian stakeholders themselves continue to work towards more effective humanitarian action. To this end, IOM has made nearly 20 individual commitments towards the core commitments of this Summit including a series of internal reforms designed to achieve more efficiencies in the manner in which we conduct our operations, as well as efforts to enhance our work to reduce vulnerabilities and foster the resilience of displaced populations, other migrants and affected communities by strengthening coping capacities and promoting self-reliance. IOM will operationalize this approach through a new framework outlining steps to progressively resolve displacement situations. A needs-first, rights-based approach to humanitarian action is essential to place affected populations at the centre of humanitarian action.

3. The World Humanitarian Summit is a step in the right direction to give voice to affected people and local responders. IOM supports the Secretary-General's call for humanitarian action to be "as local as possible, as international as necessary". As a quintessential proximity organization, which has long built its expertise and capacity around its deep field presence and reliance on direct implementation, IOM is committed to continue operating in this manner, establishing numerous partnerships with local responders and governments to help build resilience and capacity from within. To this end, IOM welcomes and supports the establishment and reinforcement of synergies between traditional and non-traditional actors as well as between humanitarian and development stakeholders. 2016 is the year for us to truly start working together across mandates – no longer siloed but instead able to make the best use of our comparative advantages. The Grand Bargain is a welcome step in this direction. Its constituent parts are to have a great impact on the international community's effectiveness as a whole and the future of humanitarian response.

The task before us may seem daunting but it is an essential undertaking. Today, we stand at a unique juncture in terms of the future of humanitarian action – let's make it count for those who truly need it. As I finish, I would like to ask three things of all of us – 1. Adopt an honest and humble view to the impact of our collective action; 2. be creative and 3. be practical yet hopeful; we owe at least that much to the millions we aim to serve.

Thank you.