



Restoring Dignity, Inspiring Change.

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## “Strengthening Implementation and Enriching Partnerships for Migrants and Communities”

IOM Council Meeting, November 26-29, 2019

Statement by the International Catholic Migration Commission

Delivered by Mantalin Kyrou, Policy Officer

*Check against delivery*

Madame Deputy Director General,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and thank you to our panelists.

In the context of this discussion, I’d like to suggest two opportunities that can lead to strengthening migration and development implementation and enriching partnerships for migrants and communities.

**Point One:** We at the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) very much welcome IOM’s Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development released this year and its acknowledgement by IOM’s membership at the Standing Committee on Programme and Finance at the end of October. We are pleased that the Strategy will anchor IOM’s work in the 2030 Agenda, providing clear outcomes and taking into account three main cross-cutting issues: inequalities, climate change and gender. Yet as we heard this morning, children make up a very noticeable percentage of arrivals; in light of that operational reality, we recommend that the strategy consider adding children as a cross-cutting issue.

The Strategy places great value on partnerships—and we agree—and stress that it is critical that they involve a diversity of stakeholders and be translated into concrete steps improving the lives of migrants. In the roll-out of this visionary and ambitious Strategy, we encourage IOM to systematically bolster partnership with civil society—from operations to policy—for we continue to stand ready to work together with you.

**Point Two:** Indeed, “strengthening implementation and enriching partnerships for migrants and communities” is the driving theme at the Civil Society day of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in January in Quito. There, civil society leaders will gather to take stock of initiatives being implemented across the spectrum of migration and development, including during a separate, voluntary dialogue on GCM implementation. For over a decade, the GFMD has been an opportunity to informally meet and discuss migration challenges, exchange ideas, network, advocate and build and reinforce meaningful partnerships – leading to the creation of mechanisms and policies that respond to migrants’

and host communities' needs. The specificity of this year's GFMD Summit is that it is truly multi-stakeholder, gathering together mayors and leaders from civil society, business and government.

On GFMD partnerships specifically, we are particularly encouraged by the positive collaboration between the Mayors Mechanism--of which IOM is a Steering Committee member—and Civil Society in joint preparation for the GFMD Common Space.

Thank you.