

Thank you Co-Chair,

Your Excellencies,

IOM congratulates the Preparatory Committee for the substantive preparations for the 4<sup>th</sup> SIDS Conference. The Conference is a significant opportunity to mobilize all stakeholders to work towards sustainable development for SIDS – and to design a new, focused, and forward-looking programme of action - and a monitoring framework - for the next ten years.

With diverse characteristics and contexts, SIDS present the complex and dynamic interlinkages between human mobility and development. A well-planned and comprehensive approach to managing human mobility, including through enhanced regular pathways, can effectively address those challenges, including: adapt to demographic shifts and meet the labor market needs, integrating into climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, and in turn, accelerating sustainable development. In this regard, IOM would like to highlight the work already started, with already existing regional frameworks on human mobility, both in relation to climate and mobility; and labour mobility, which we will continue to support towards socioeconomic and cultural development for SIDS future.

The diaspora has a potential that can be tapped much more, for its expertise, knowledge and innovation. Recognizing remittances, from within SIDS as well as from outside SIDS, as a reliable financing instrument for development, is also a crucial consideration.

As the UN migration agency with a wide operational footprint in SIDS, IOM has the mandate, the capacity, and the commitment to be a key partner for SIDS in implementing solutions. IOM stands committed to continue working with partners, towards the SIDS4 Conference and beyond, so that we can all harness human mobility as part of the solutions developed by and for SIDS.

Thank You.