**CLOSING REMARKS**

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**INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION**

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I would like to thank you all for staying to the end and for all the participation that you have been contributing for the two days, and of course, to the panelists for their contributions. I think the discussion has been very rich.

This session was a follow up to the previous IDM in New York, a dialogue that began the dive below the surface of the deep complexities of the relationship between youth and migration, and challenged us to discuss several more facets of this topic. I hope you all feel you understand better and perhaps have been inspired by the presentations and will reflect on the knowledge and expertise shared by speakers.

As the DG mentioned at his opening remarks, IOM wants to listen, learn, and act on these discussions. We are committed to follow up on various recommendations and good examples, and build effective partnerships with the different actors identified during the dialogue.

I would like to highlight several key takeaways from these two days:

* Young people are not strategically important only because of their percentage in the world population, but also because of how much they can contribute. Empowering youth is an investment for creating foundation for stronger future generations. Youth have a main role to play in sustainable development and this can be enhanced through ensuring their access to capacity building, knowledge, technology, and training.
* Technology is an important tool for young migrants, a tool that gives us a chance to produce verifiable data through the combination of apps, social media and one window approach. It is essential that verifiable data can be analysed without bureaucracy. Partnering with the local authorities and private sector is key for this to become possible.
* Unheard stories - successful migrant voices are needed, but we also need to listen the ones who did not succeed, the ones who could not make it through migration but returned home, and what happened to them.
* Young diaspora contribute to their countries of origin, transit and destination economically through remittances, through transfer of knowledge and skills, by connecting people and resources, but also through the movement of cultures, which helps to break negative and harmful stereotypes.
* We need comprehensive solutions for the engagement of diaspora, which should include policy changes such as on the right to vote and the right to nationality, and appropriate programs for integration and exchange of experiences between the diaspora and their countries of origin.
* It is necessary (i) to build capacity for better collection of data and statistics, (ii) to assess the needs and potential contributions of diaspora population, (iii) to establish the right means of communication with them, and (iv) to provide an enabling environment for them to be properly engaged.
* In the African context, we need to start building a new narrative and perception of African migration. There is a need for nuanced and fact-based debate on its migration flows. The African Migration Report will be an important tool in this regard.
* One of the conclusions of the report which deserves attention is that while women constitute almost half of the total migration within Africa, women stay relatively close to home, where as it is the men who travel further to the field.
* Education is a powerful tool for youth integration. Programmes like TandEM, which bring local and newcomers together in universities should be replicated in other areas aiming at providing better support and integration to young migrants.
* Environmental changes affect everyone, but some groups are affected disproportionately, including youth. Youth has to be given a role in disaster risk reduction, has to be included in policy discussions and processes, having the chance of meaningful participation. As highlighted by our speakers, youth are already making a difference in building resilience and making strong calls to be heard.
* We need to be better at identifying the fears that disable young migrants, and reduce the mental stress for them, including through more support and faster administrative processes.
* We need to look at work in the big picture, the conditions of work for young people as a whole, and taking into account technology and demographic transformations, and have a life long learning approach.

**CONCLUSION**

The recommendations made by speakers and participatns over these two days have demonstrated that young migrants have unique needs that can only be addressed through the active participation and cooperation of all relevant stakeholders.

In the coming days, a longer summary of the dialogue will be made available, and a comprehensive report of this dialogue and the previous one in New York will be released.

I would like to once again thank all speakers and participants for your thoughtful contributions to this session. It is our hope that this IDM session provided an opportunity for you to reflect on the complexities of youth migration and emboldened you to take action to address the needs of young migrants in your respective countries, communities and spheres of influence.

As we begin preparations for the IDM in 2020, we welcome your feedback and suggestions for a new theme to explore, and trust that you will remain involved in these discussions for future topics.