Minister Çavuşglou, Deputy UN Secretary General, Jan Eliasson, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman.

I welcome this opportunity to say a few words on behalf of the 18-agency Global Migration Group (GMG) and to renew our conversation on GMG-GfMD cooperation. We look forward to continue the dialogue among our troikas with Peter Sutherland, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, and identifying areas for our concerted focus.

It is now almost one year since the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the adoption by the General Assembly of the landmark Declaration, which also called upon all of us to strengthen our collaboration and cooperation with a view to addressing better and more fully international migration and development linkages. As Chair of the GMG, I have been committed to encouraging a more systematic engagement between GMG agencies and governments participating in the GFMD. I would like to thank again the previous Swedish Chair and the present Turkish Chair for making this a genuine two-way dialogue.

At the GFMD meeting in Stockholm, [during the Special Session on “Enhancing Coordination between the GFMD and the United Nations System”] we identified a number of thematic areas on which the GFMD and GMG agencies could work together, such as mainstreaming migration into development, reducing labour migration costs, including exploitive recruitment practices, and promoting gender-responsive migration policies.

As I mentioned then, it is very important that the outputs, content and nature of discussions taking place in multilateral settings find a reflection and a consequence in what is occurring in different Member States. That is, to ensure that what is discussed at the global level drills down to the realities on the ground. In this regard, I am pleased to report that in July the GMG Principals tasked the GMG to establish guidance for the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and to assist Member States in appropriately integrating migration into national development plans and processes. We hope that this guidance will serve as a concrete contribution by the GMG in assisting Member States to tackle this complex issue in a relevant and measured way.

This work can also contribute to more adequate reflection of migration in the post-2015 UN development agenda. To this end, the GMG Principals will endorse a draft communiqué on migration and development for consideration in these deliberations. [Due to be finalized around the first anniversary of the HLD in October] This will serve as collective expression of the 18 GMG agencies of the importance of migration within the proposed SDG goals, such as poverty eradication, reducing inequalities within and among countries, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and as an integral element in constructing new global partnerships for development.

Given our shared concerns around these issues, there are number of areas in, and around which we look forward to closer collaboration and exchange.