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**Statement by Louise Arbour, Special Representative
of the Secretary-General for International Migration**

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On repositioning the UN system on migration

(GCM Negotiations, Round IV)

New York, May 2018

**Dear co-Facilitators,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Considerable progress has been made in our work on how best to strengthen the UN system's support to Member States on migration, pursuant to the Secretary-General's commitment towards that end.

As you know, we have worked with a senior consultant who has now completed her internal consultations. In total, some 37 interviews were conducted, involving 91 individuals in 21 UN agencies, funds, programs, Secretariat offices and Country Teams, as well as IOM.

I have held discussions with the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General about identifying the best way forward. Further procedures within the system will be necessary to finalise the course ahead. We anticipate being in a position to provide you with a clear articulation of that direction by the time of the fifth round of negotiations in June.

It might be somewhat frustrating if I left matters there. Thus, while respecting the internal process we have embarked on under the Secretary-General's guidance, I would like to take this opportunity to make the following observations drawn from our consultations.

First, coordination should focus on ensuring that the UN system responds to the demands and expectations that will likely be generated by the Global Compact.

Coordination, furthermore, should impose the fewest burdens while maximising both our efficiency and effectiveness. Coordination should include ensuring that we are able to match – system-wide – expertise, mandates and capacities with function in support of the GCM.

There should be no duplication with existing coordination mechanisms: all UN actors, including IOM, should continue their close engagement within pre-existing mechanisms to coordinate UN work on humanitarian and development issues.

Similarly, ongoing coordination at the national level, via UN Country Teams and the RC system, should be preserved, in line with the UN Development System reforms.

And, finally, there is a need for systematic engagement with regional bodies working on migration.

We will present more details on this during the next round of negotiations. Meanwhile, the matter is on the agenda of the Secretary-General's Executive Committee for 23 May, following which the Secretary-General will be in a position to finalize his choice of options.

A final word on the UN system and IOM. IOM *is* part of the UN system; it contributes to the work of the UN in myriad ways, and at all levels.

But more can be done to strengthen this state of affairs. This is not simply a question of IOM's status which, although important, is not determinative.

Coordination and leadership will rest on the clearest possible division of labour, based on capacity, mandate and expertise, if coordination is to aid, not confuse.

At all times, we will need to ground our work on migration firmly in the UN Charter and its core principles.

And, finally, we will look to Member States to provide the support necessary to ensure we have the capacities fully to assist them in this important endeavour.

Thank you.