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STATEMENT BY

thesis, which is that given the driving forces of demography, disasters, the digital revolution, distance-shrinking technology and migration is inevitable. We have more people than ever before in the world today who are on the move. Secondly, it is overwhelmingly necessary if jobs are to be filled, skills to be available and economies to flourish. And finally, it is highly desirable if we have the right policies.

Finally, there are several challenges we will have to meet if we are going to address this situation responsibly and humanely. First of all, we have to change the public narrative about migration. At present, it is toxic. We need to get back to viewing migration as a positive force and as an enabler of development. Second, in terms of challenges, we have to learn to manage diversity, as cultural, ethnic and religious diversity is going to be the wave of the future. We have an aging north with lots of jobs to be filled and we have a youthful south with a turgid rate of job creation and we need to address that. And finally, we have to conjugate the conundrums of national sovereignty versus individual rights, and between national security and human security.

In all of this, IOM is firmly committed to supporting you in addressing these migratory flows. You have our support. That is why we are here today, and I hope that you will join us on a new path to dignified, orderly and safe migration for the benefit of all.

Thank you.