It is with great enthusiasm that I am applying for the IOM Migration and Development Policy Officer position. As a professional and academic with rich experience in policy implementation, research applications and programming in the areas of international labour migration and development, I do believe that I am suited for this position.

Over the past five years, my focus has been on applying my academic experience to labour migration programs management, engaging in policy development and implementation and creating a solid knowledge base to design new projects and inform policy makers. Today, after five years of successful management of programs and research applications, I am confident that my background has provided me with the intellectual depth and the skills required to support the delivery and implementation of the IOM’s Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development.

My academic path included the completion of BA in Behavioral Sciences, MSc in Migration and Ethnic Studies from the University of Amsterdam, followed by a PhD that comparatively analyzed migrants' rights activism in Israel and Singapore, publications in high impact-factor journals (e.g. Law and Society Review) and receiving competitive grants.

With an interest in further acquiring skills in the practical management of migration related programs and informing policy making, I joined the Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI) in Jerusalem as a Labour Migration programs Manager in 2015. In this capacity, I was working with IOM on the Thailand-Israel Cooperation project (TIC), a labor migration project implemented by IOM Bangkok in partnership with CIMI. Through running the operational process of migrants' arrival under a bilateral agreement and providing protection services through a Call Center, I liaised effectively with various partners and stakeholders- both governmental and international- worked closely with them to ensure the correct implementation of the agreements, and engaged in policy consultations by providing supporting data from our operations and monitoring activities. I was also responsible for the financial aspects of the operations, monitoring the budget and reporting.

Since 2016 I have been responsible for the overall establishment and management of the organization's research activity including creating an agenda organized around thematic clusters and a strategic plan; initiating collaborations and obtaining human and financial resources to implement the agenda and plan (e.g. ‘GLOCAL’, MA program in International Development in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the international MA Program on Global Migration and Policy in Tel Aviv University); leading our publications, facilitating the exchange of knowledge; disseminating the Call Center data management platform; recruiting and supervising experts and consultant for conducting research and producing reports; evaluating policies’ implementation with government policy planners to support efforts in understanding issues and constructing solutions in line with international standards.

After several years of specialising in migrants’ rights and protection mechanisms, I become increasingly interested in further exploring the complex link between migration and development. More specifically how the benefit of migration can be maximised and leveraged to improved and sustainable opportunities of migrants and their communities, and how they can engage and become agents of this process. In the framework of the academic collaborations and the enrolled students’ internships we have developed the organization’s knowledge on remittances, as well as on technological information platforms for migrants. Building on this evidence-based foundation, I am currently leading and supervising two pilot projects. The first is a financial literacy pilot project for migrants, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Philippines and with the consultancy of IOM LHD specialist in the Regional Office in Vienna. The second is aims at launching a technological information platform for migrants (possibly an app) to provide them with tools to optimize their orientation and use of services in Israel (including costs of money transfer), while staying connected to their communities of origin. Developing these new areas involves building the capacity of interns and staff and encouraging them to share and exchange knowledge, contribute their best and develop their potential.

In all my work and exchange with IOM colleagues, I have always been impressed by their high level of professional commitment. Creating an environment in which migrants can improve their lives, support their society and reduce poverty is one of the main challenges of migration today. It is my sincere hope that the IOM can utilize my experience and background, and that I will be able to make a significant contribution to its efforts in meeting this challenge. I would be grateful to have the opportunity to interview and to learn more about the position.