



BELARUS

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OF THE IOM COUNCIL
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GENERAL DEBATE

**STATEMENT
OF MR. VITALY NAUMCHIK
FIRST DEPUTY HEAD OF THE
DEPARTMENT FOR CITIZENSHIP AND MIGRATION OF THE
INTERIOR MINISTRY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

**Dear Mr. Director General,
Dear Mr.(Ms.) Chairperson,
Respective audience,**

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Belarus I would like to welcome all the participants of the 107th session of the IOM Council and to congratulate the IOM represented by Ambassador William Lacy Swing on the 65th anniversary of its founding and the recent significant event in the history of the organization namely the entry of the IOM to the UN.

Signing of the Agreement with the UN is the most tangible evidence of the recognition of the IOM's authority at the international arena and its leading role in solving the issues of international migration. In this respect it is logically relevant that IOM has been given the key role in drafting the Global Migration Agreement.

Belarus shares the concern of the international community about current difficult migration situation, increasing number of humanitarian crises caused by ongoing and new armed conflicts, the unprecedented nature of humanitarian challenges we have been forced to deal with recently.

Under conditions of globalization and the increase in the scale of global

movement of people creating and supporting the system of efficient migration management as well as developing a harmonized action plan to solve migration issues of the new age is gaining more and more particular importance.

Our country welcomes active efforts of IOM in solving humanitarian issues and providing assistance to migrants in need. We encourage you to continue this work.

Belarus is open to fruitful international cooperation in the field of migration and addressing accompanying adverse social phenomena.

Our country is grateful to IOM for over 20 years of consistent and sustainable partnership. Over these years our cooperation has reached a high level. Up till now the upward trend of its development has been preserved.

Today it is certain to say that the IOM's policy towards Belarus is transparent, open to constructive dialogue and reflects the understanding of the national strategy in the field of migration management and combating trafficking in persons.

Through joined efforts we have reached tangible results, implemented a number of projects essential for our country which have significantly enhanced the potential of Belarus in the field of migration management and combating trafficking in persons.

Belarus pays particular attention to securing sustainability of the joint initiative consisting in the foundation of the International Training Centre on Migration and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. In July 2017 the International Training Centre will celebrate its 10th anniversary.

The Centre today is one of the key international platforms of theoretical and practical importance providing added value and possibilities for regional, interregional and international cooperation in the field of migration management and addressing its illegal manifestations, exchanging best practices and establishing practical cooperation between professional communities of various countries of the world.

Belarus counts on further support of the Centre on the IOM's part and emphasizes the importance to continue joint actions in this area. In the light of the

upcoming anniversary of the International Training Centre and on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Belarus and senior management of the Interior Ministry please allow me to invite you, Mr. Swing to visit Belarus and to participate personally in the activities on the occasion of this event.

Speaking about current migration situation in Belarus it should be noted that it has not changed significantly over the last year and remains stable and manageable. However there is an emerging trend of an increasing number of identified organized groups of irregular migrants moving through the territory of the Republic of Belarus to the countries of the European Union.

National measures taken to ensure migration stability and efficient governmental migration policy which is being implemented enable us to keep the migration situation under control.

Our country welcomes the efforts taken by IOM to intensify its project activities in Belarus in the field of migration. For our part we confirm the readiness to maintain constructive cooperation in the course of implementation of the joined project directed at assisting the Republic of Belarus in solving the issues related to the increasing flow of irregular migrants. Belarus is grateful to the European Union for funding made available for this project which implementation is scheduled to start next year.

We expect that the implementation of this project will shape the practical content for the agreements set forward in the Joint Declaration on Mobility Partnership and will create additional opportunities for the extension of cooperation between Belarus and European Union in the field of migration. The Belarusian delegation underlines the importance of linking IOM to this process.

In conclusion I would like to thank the IOM's senior management and staff for the support and express the hope to continue fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.