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Statement delivered by
H.E. Ambassador Piotr Stachańczyk
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at the General Debate of the
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Director-General, Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman,

I fully align my statement with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like also to present a few remarks from my national perspective.

This year has been yet another intense period in the field of migration. Unprecedented numbers of migrants continue to move across international borders, fleeing conflict, persecution, poverty, climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation. We share the Director General's report assessments describing accurately current migration landscape and challenges.

Passing year has also been an eventful time for the International Organization for Migration. The 65th anniversary was punctuated by IOM becoming a part of the UN family. The global significance and universality of IOM will gain from the addition this year of four new members, namely the People's Republic of China, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Kingdom of Tonga. Poland warmly welcomes these states as well as new observers.

Ladies and Gentleman,

The enhanced linkage of IOM to the UN corresponded fittingly with the United Nations Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants which took place in September in New York. The Summit provided a unique opportunity for the global community to work out a greater consensus on managing the world's movements of migrants and refugees.

Poland welcomed the outcomes of the New York summit. The adopted Declaration, as the first ever so broadly recognized international comprehensive document on migration, represents a good way forward and gives us a good mandate for further work. The proposal for a Global Compact for Migration should become an important vehicle to implement the migration-related aspects of the SDGs through the elaboration of a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migration and human mobility. IOM is best equipped to play a key role and make significant contributions to the process towards the creation of the Global Compact. We expect that the Geneva-based migration expertise to be fully integrated into the process at all its stages.

We expect that beginning 2017 modalities on the Global Compact on Migration negotiations will be adopted. Any further discussions on the GCM content should provide us with an opportunity to agree on effective long-term strategy towards all forms of human mobility, framed in the 2030 Agenda. Basically the GCM should build on existing international norms and conventions, rather than create any new legal regimes or categories of migrants. Regarding possible inclusion of displacement and mixed migration questions in the negotiating process of the GCM we opt to try to keep a clear distinction between refugees and migrants, based on their separate legal frameworks.

The ultimate goal of the negotiating process is, in our view, achieving a balance between the concept of a good global governance of migration and the imperative of a sovereign decision of a state and security issues. And we expect that the GCM will be innovative and at the same time feasible.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman,

We believe that effective response for the large migration movement requires cooperation of countries of origin, transit and destination and that our main goal should be creating conditions enabling as many people as possible to secure their livelihoods and fulfill their aspirations without the need to embark on long and perilous journeys. The responsibility of destination countries is also to align their migration policies with their actual needs and capacity to absorb and integrate migrants. We also need to deliver a clear message about the actual existing opportunities but also about potential challenges related to migration.

We need to take action aiming at making migration orderly, safe, well managed and responsible. To achieve that we need to improve our capacity in the area of managing and securing our borders and regaining control over the large movements. The International Organization for Migration with its strengthened participation in the UN system should continue to render support to migrants in vulnerable situations but also support to national migration policies, with full respect to the sovereignty principle and the right to decide by the respective national authorities on who could be admitted to the territory of each state regarding the security issues.

As the global lead agency for international migration, IOM remains for Poland an important partner. Poland supports the activity of IOM on a regular basis. Additional contributions are brought to cover the implementation costs highly valued by us joint migration projects. We hope that our continued cooperation on the basis of mutual trust, transparency and proven efficiency will be beneficial for all sides, especially migrants.

Thank you for your attention