

108th Session of the IOM Council
Intervention by Permanent Representative of Ukraine
Ambassador Yuriy Klymenko

November 29, 2017

Madame Chairperson,
Mr. Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

The delegation of Ukraine welcomes the report by the Director General on migration related activities. We share his concerns regarding a series of recent global developments and commend the work of the IOM staff dedicated to solving the problems of migrants, victims of human trafficking and IDPs in different regions of the world.

Taking this opportunity I would like to commend your, *Director General*, strong leadership over the last decade in guiding the IOM through the time of unprecedented challenges in the migration sphere. The role of the Organization, its commitments, as well as the number of its Member States have visibly increased. We believe that IOM's active engagement globally will only grow in the future.

It is worth noting that last year's IOM joining of the United Nations system has opened new opportunities to the Organization, especially in extending its participation in the UN operations at field level, allowing, in particular, to avoid duplication of work.

In the period of proliferation of mass displacement in the world, there is a need for IOM to continue adapting itself to meet the challenges it is confronted with.

The massive movement of persons across the border and within states is forcing the international community to take steps in creating a framework to address the emerging instabilities. Thus, the Global Compact for Migration should give us a historic opportunity to strengthen the protection of the rights of migrants and enhance governance of and international cooperation on migration.

While the Global Compact is a Member State-led process, at the same time there is no doubt that IOM's role in supporting the negotiations by extending the technical and policy expertise required, as well as engaging diverse stakeholders in the consultations is essential.

Moreover, after the Global Compact is adopted, the process will not end. We believe that the further role of IOM with regard to the implementation of the Global Compact and its follow-up will be of essence as well.

Madame Chairperson,

In our view, in further deliberations and actions we must pay increased attention, among other things, to the situation with IDPs, as their number is significantly growing. In most cases, affected countries are not ready to respond to new realities caused by massive internal displacement, especially in conflict situations. These individuals, who are at risk of becoming refugees, irregular migrants or victims of human trafficking if their displacement persists, require protection and assistance.

We therefore believe that this category of vulnerable persons needs to be adequately taken into account in the future intergovernmental agreements, including in both Global Compacts.

Madame Chairperson,

Ukraine appreciates IOM's continuing efforts to strengthen the protection and self-reliance of IDPs.

Because of Russia's over three-year-long hybrid aggression against my country, the number of IDPs in Ukraine has reached 1.6 million, and the number of all affected persons is even higher. The systematic violations of the cease-fire regime by the Russian-backed illegal armed groups which provoke casualties among civilians and Ukrainian servicemen, as well as blocking by the abovementioned illegal groups of necessary humanitarian access to the temporary occupied territories in Eastern Ukraine, continue to aggravate the overall situation.

The Government of Ukraine, together with international partners, continues to provide all necessary assistance to vulnerable people, in particular, IDPs, further undertaking all possible institutional and legislative efforts to increase their social and security guarantees and ensure their human rights.

The Director General's visit to Ukraine in October last year marked the 20th anniversary of the IOM Mission in Ukraine. IOM's activities in assisting Ukraine comprise dozens of projects, in particular, in countering human trafficking and assisting IDPs, supporting community stabilization and social integration, strengthening self-reliance of vulnerable persons and providing capacity building support for migration-related government bodies. We express our sincere gratitude to IOM and other international partners for their commitment and dedication, and hope for their continuing active engagement.

In conclusion, let me assure of our further support of the IOM's activities, in particular in my country.

I thank you.