



B E L A R U S

STATEMENT

by His Excellency Yury Ambrazevich
Permanent Representative of Belarus
to the UN Office at Geneva
109th session of the IOM Council
General debate

Mr. President,
Director-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As this is the first IOM Council session for our **new Director-General**, I would like to start my statement by extending sincere congratulations to His Excellency **Antonio Vitorino** on his election to this post last June.

We would like to wish the new Director-General every bit of success in his future endeavors, and assure him of Belarus' continued support to the IOM work.

The Director General takes office at a time when the International Organization for Migration is facing both **tremendous challenges and immense opportunities**.

In just a couple of days the international community is set to endorse **the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** at the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakesh.

As the **former Director General William Lacy Swing** rightly said in July on the occasion of the completion of negotiations on the draft Compact: “It is the beginning of a new historic effort **to shape the global agenda on migration for decades to come**”.

Indeed, **human mobility** is the defining characteristic of our time and is likely to remain such for the foreseeable future.

As it affects all of us in various ways, we need to **harness its positive potential** while containing its downsides.

Belarus is convinced that the **Global Compact** on Migration provides us exactly with a **tool that is necessary** to realize this vision.

Belarus fully supports **the new mandate** that the International Organization for Migration will receive with the adoption of the Compact.

We believe that the IOM, owing to its long-standing and enormous experience and expertise on migration matters, is best placed to assist Member States with the Compact’s implementation, especially in its capacity **as coordinator of the International Network on Migration**.

Likewise, we welcome the central role assigned to the IOM with regard to the **follow-up and review** of the Compact.

Mr. President,

The Global Compact sets out a number of important practically-oriented measures to deal with the **consequences** of migration. This work, however, may ultimately turn out to be futile **unless we address the root causes**.

Indeed, according to the Global Compact, there are **various drivers and structural factors** that underlie migration.

War and conflict are certainly among those. Unfortunately, **the UN Security Council** far too often cannot intervene to resolve them, because of disagreements among **great powers**.

We are thus absolutely convinced that finding **agreement among great powers** on the fundamentals of a **new international order**, which will allow to restrain war and conflict, is the prerequisite for progress in all other areas.

That was **the core of the initiative proposed last year by the President of Belarus**, who also offered Belarus' capital Minsk as a venue for a possible process.

Mr. President,

In concluding, I would like to say that Belarus immensely appreciates its **cooperation with the IOM**. In particular, very recently, on 23 October the Government of Belarus and the IOM have launched a **major multi-year project** titled *“Helping Belarus Address the Phenomenon of Increasing Numbers of Irregular Migrants”*, which will be financially supported by the European Union.

Thank you for your kind attention.