



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**STATEMENT**  
**by H.E. Oxana Domenti**  
**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova**  
**at the 109<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council**  
*(Geneva, 27-30 November 2018)*

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

First of all I would like to congratulate Your Excellency on your election as Chairperson of this Council, as well the new Vice-Chairs. We also welcome a new member state, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the two new observer organizations – International Monetary Fund and International Emergency and Development Aid.

I would also like to congratulate the Director General António Vitorino for assuming this position and to wish him every success in pursuing the noble goals of the IOM. We extend our appreciation for the Director General's report presented at the opening of our Council and for the insightful comments made by Mr. António Vitorino as regards the long-term responses, the IOM and the entire UN migration network are to deliver in the future.

The Republic of Moldova ratified the IOM Constitution back in 2003 and became its 101<sup>st</sup> member. Being a country of origin, transit and destination migration, which so witnesses a specific migration phenomenon, the Republic of Moldova has been assisted by several international partners, including the IOM, to design appropriate policy framework and mechanisms for managing migration flows. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the IOM for the fruitful cooperation and valuable support granted to my country in implementing many useful projects during the last 15 years, since Moldova joined the IOM.

As a country of origin for important labor migration outflows, with about 10-15 % of the population being labor migrants, which causes serious challenges for the demographic, social and economic future of the country, we are especially interested in creating proper conditions for return migration. Together with the IOM Mission to the Republic of Moldova, some plans and programs for assisted voluntarily return and reintegration have been implemented, offering support for migrants in numerous tangible ways, including a range of integrated social services, universal access to basic health services and national health programs, preferential health insurance conditions upon return, facilitating labor market access and small business investments.

Taking into consideration this precious experience in cooperation with the IOM, we are looking forward to enhance and strengthen these practices, focused on sustainable return migration and reducing the vulnerability of all those affected.

In 2017 we had some 3 % of the population as international migrants in the Republic of Moldova. Main reasons for migration were family reunification, employment and education. Migrants and refugees enjoy fundamental basic rights and benefit in the Republic of Moldova from a wide range of social, medical and other services. Ongoing training is provided to national authorities involved in the integration of migrants.

My country supports the leading role of the IOM in coordinating the UN network on migration. We view the Global Compact on Migration as a good substance basis, comprising 23 broad objectives accessible to all stakeholders involved in the migration related issues.

Because the Compact is likely to cover a range of issues too broad for any state to tackle simultaneously, the most realistic way forward may be “mini-multilateralism” – a series of coalitions among origin, transit, and destination states, along with civil-society and private-sector stakeholders, that work collectively on certain policies and projects within the Compact's principles.

Considering that the Global Compact is basically rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we want to highlight the importance of the following elements for a well governed migration that would benefits the sustainable development: the availability of accurate data for evidence-based policies on migration; enhanced cooperation at all levels; migrants empowerment; harnessing the potential of migration for achieving the sustainable development goals, mainstreaming migration into national development processes of the countries.

I have also to mention that this year the Republic of Moldova celebrates 10 years of its Mobility Partnership with the European Union. Since 2008, as the first Eastern Partnership pilot country, Republic of Moldova continues to share its experience with other interested partners, both from the Eastern and Southern neighborhood of the European Union. My country is interested to develop and multiply this practice, considering the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. I take this opportunity to align with the statement made earlier on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, allow me to express our hope for a good and constructive work during the Migration Week in Marrakech in December, to the benefit of all involved parties.

Thank you for your attention.