

Check against delivery

Statement delivered by
Ms. Zuzanna Kierzkowska
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland

at the General Debate of the
109. session of the IOM Council

Geneva, 27-30 November 2018

Director-General, Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman,

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. At the same time, I would like to present a few remarks from our national perspective.

First of all I would like to express satisfaction with the election of the new Director General.

Director-General,

We believe that your experience and strong leadership will allow further increase of IOM's efficiency and improvement of transparency while preserving operation and field oriented profile of the Organization. I wish you to be a successful leader in these challenging times.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Poland shares the view that migration can have a positive impact on sustainable development when handled responsibly and managed properly under joint effort of the origin, transit and destination countries. This is why, during the negotiation process of the GCM, we opted for facilitating migration as a well informed choice that comes through legal means. We were very supportive of building, within the framework of the GCM, strong and long-term partnerships based on mutual trust in order to tackle the issue of irregular migration as a joint responsibility of both origin and destination countries. We have believed that the Compact should include increased links to development, as an indispensable component of a global action to address the root causes of migration, together with efforts to eradicate human trafficking, exploitation and all modern forms of slavery.

Since the conclusion of the GCM talks, Poland still has had significant doubts about the content and balance of the final document presented for adoption. On many occasions Poland emphasized its reservations to the text concerning strengthening of the sovereignty guarantees and clear distinction between regular and irregular migrants throughout the document. These were our key negotiation priorities. We wished to have them better reflected in the GCM document.

Despite that the GCM is non-legally binding and allows for a degree of flexibility, we still believe that without further streamlining of the text, it may serve as an additional incentive for irregular migration. For this reason, last week the Council of Ministers took a negative position regarding adoption of the GCM document by Poland, which has been notified to the UN.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Ending, I would like to emphasize Poland's believe that finding solutions for the challenges of large migration movements and ensuring migration safe, orderly and regular calls for genuine partnerships on a bilateral, regional and global level. Poland, keeping in mind its goals and priorities, is ready to engage in such partnerships and cooperation.

We support and follow the comprehensive approach towards managing migration with the aim to stem irregular migration, dismantle migrant trafficking networks, improve the effectiveness of returns and address the root causes in cooperation with key countries of origin and transit. We appreciate robust efforts of the IOM to improve the management of migration at all levels and our long lasting cooperation in the area of Assisted Voluntary Returns.

Thank you for your attention