

109th Session of the IOM Council
Intervention by Permanent Representative of Ukraine
Ambassador Yuriy Klymenko
(November __, 2018)

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

At the outset, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the IOM's Director-General Mr. Antonio Vitorino on the assumption of his important duties. We wish Director-General every success in resolving the diverse issues of migration throughout the world and transforming the IOM to make it more prepared and capable of meeting current and emerging challenges.

The Ukrainian side appreciates Director-General's report to the 109th Session of the IOM Council giving detailed and useful information on the Organization's activities, as well as providing his vision of the further development prospects of the IOM.

The global migration crisis phenomena, which humanity has come across over the past decades, calls for common approaches and solutions. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration could be a useful tool for joint and balanced approach, reflecting all aspects of international migration in full conformity with human rights, in order to properly address and effectively reduce irregular migration. Ukraine believes that robust and sustainable solutions can only be achieved through mutual efforts and enhanced international cooperation.

Mr. Chairperson,

The challenges the Government of Ukraine is tackling nowadays in the humanitarian and migration spheres are enormous, first of all, because of the ongoing Russian aggression. The situation along the contact line in eastern Ukraine remains critical. The shellings by Russia-backed illegal armed groups of settlements and civilian infrastructure significantly affect the lives of the populations residing there, provoking, among other things, their forced displacement. The hostilities also pose a direct threat to the lives of people crossing the contact line through the checkpoints.

According to recent statistics, about 1.5 million persons in Ukraine have been registered as IDPs, 49 thousand of them are persons with disabilities and about 240 thousand are children.

2018 is another critical year for the 3.4 million men, women and children in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in Ukraine, as well as for the humanitarian organizations, including the IOM, working hard to respond in a principled, timely and quality manner.

Despite the existing significant challenges, Ukraine continues to implement all necessary measures in order to alleviate the humanitarian situation and help those in need. Last year the Government of Ukraine adopted the Strategy for the Integration of IDPs and the Implementation of Long-Term Decisions on Internal Displacement for the Period until 2020, elaborated with the assistance of Ukraine's international humanitarian partners.

In December 2017, the Government has approved the State Target Program for Reconstruction and Development of Peace in the Eastern Regions of Ukraine. The main purpose

of this Program is to boost the economic activity and socio-economic development of territorial communities to improve their livelihoods and social stability.

This September the Government of Ukraine took an important decision on the involvement of civil society representatives in the preparation and implementation of relevant state policies to address the problems of ensuring the rights of IDPs and of the population of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

Our country is grateful for the effective bilateral cooperation with the IOM. We commend the Organization's endeavors in Ukraine aimed, in particular, at supporting a large number of affected populations, including IDPs, as well as strengthening their self-resilience and social cohesion.

We would like to emphasize the importance and usefulness of such IOM's programs being realized in Ukraine as:

- essential humanitarian support for IDPs;
- stabilization support for IDPs and conflict-affected populations;
- counter-trafficking activities;
- capacity-building for migration management and some others.

I would like to praise, in particular, the IOM's engagement in confronting human trafficking. The UN Migration Agency, in close cooperation with the Government of Ukraine, has been assisting trafficking victims in our country for already 20 years. During this period, human trafficking victims have received medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, as well as vocational training and equipment to help them start their own enterprises.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Government of Ukraine does its utmost to tackle the migration and humanitarian challenges my country has been confronting. However, because of their vast scale and unprecedented nature, Ukraine cannot cope with them alone and relies on further intensified cooperation with the international community, in particular, with the IOM.

We were encouraged by the Director-General's words yesterday that the Organization "...will need to become a strategic partner as well as an implementer, helping governments adopt a long-term perspective as well as fulfil their short-term priorities". We are very much looking forward to promoting this type of cooperation.

I thank you.