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**Statement by
H. E. Ambassador Zdzisław Rapacki
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Poland**

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Mr. Chairman,

As I am taking the floor for the first time, let me congratulate you, Ambassador Khan on your election as a chair, together with other members of the Bureau.

Allow me also welcome Belarus, Cameroon, Ghana and Togo as new members of the Organisation as well as the Islamic Relief as observer.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

During its long history Poland has experienced various migration movements which influenced our economic, political and social situation. We benefited from these migratory movements as well as we experienced the negative aspects of these processes.

At the beginning of 90`s, after years of being isolated by the *iron curtain* Poland faced all of the challenges related to modern migration movements. Polish migration policy had to be built from the scratch and it has been done within the last 15 years. Since 2004 Poland is a member of the EU and participates in common migration and asylum policy, which has been established as an element of the European “area of freedom, security and justice”.

When building Polish migration policy, support and assistance from other countries and international organisations were the very important factors. We experienced many examples of international solidarity and common responsibility in solving migration problems. That is the reason why, in our view, effective management of migration is possible only as a result of common efforts, common strategies and common understanding – common to all of the countries concerned and to the international organisations.

Mr. Chairman,

International organisations like IOM have been playing a very important role in the development of migration systems, not only in Poland, but in other new EU member states, as well. As far as Poland is concerned, the cooperation between governmental bodies and IOM has been developing all the time.

There are many examples of this co-operation. Let me refer only to some of them. Together with IOM we elaborated a special pilot project in the field of migrants' voluntary return. The aim of the project was to jointly manage mutual support in the program of return of asylum seekers who decided to withdraw their application and come back to their countries of origin or those who had been refused asylum.

Poland is also active within the IOM program "Coping with return" which has been approved by the European Commission. This program is to be co-financed in the framework of the European Refugee Fund 2004. The 16 EU member countries as well as Switzerland and Norway are involved in these activities. The program, scheduled for 18 months, is aiming at facilitating sustainable return of asylum seekers through an integrated approach to voluntary returns, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups of asylum seekers such as unaccompanied minors. The project facilitates exchange of best practices in return policies.

A new IOM program on enhancing health security along the eastern border of the EU is now under consideration. We are really interested in setting this program in motion because of significant length of the EU eastern border in Poland. The aim of the program is both to better monitor and provide fast medical support when an immigrant suffers physical or mental health problems

and to enhance health security in refugee centers as well as to better protect public health.

Accession to the EU created new impetus to our cooperation with international organisations. In modern migration policies whether on national, regional or global levels, there is a great and ever growing need for involvement of international organisations. Such organisations are crucial for coordinating migration policies and for spreading better understanding among all institutions, NGOs and other partners involved.

In this context, we support the conclusions of the “Report of the Global Commission on International Migration” of October, 2005. We are impressed by what has been achieved by the members of the Global Commission in terms of their analysis of migration situation as well as their practical attitude to the migration problems.

The globalisation process which includes movement of people, goods, capital and technology should be followed by reasonable solutions addressed the labour market problems. This is inseparably and by its nature connected to international migration. It is high time the global solutions for contemporary migration problems were taken under consideration. That is a current challenge for all of the institutions involved in the creation of migration policies: national, regional and global. “Report of the Global Commission on International Migration” seems to be an excellent starting point for a more intensive dialogue and cooperation to build global migration policy. The initiative of International Dialogue on Migration is becoming an extremely important mechanism facilitating such a process.

Poland also welcomes the UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held in September 2006. The ever-growing role of international migration in world's economy, as well as its social and political implications, requires urgent response and creation of new comprehensive strategies.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

As a member of the EU, Poland is interested in further deepening of cooperation with other EU countries in developing "area of freedom, security and justice" including cooperation in the management of migration movements. As a border country of the EU area, Poland is interested in dialogue with, and support to, the neighbouring third countries, which are often transit countries for migrants.

We have been sharing our experience throughout our activities in a number of international regional and local fora dealing with different aspects of migration phenomenon. The fora like Soderkoping Process, Middle-European Initiative or Salzburg Process are good examples of such activities. We believe that our experience will be useful to other countries which face the need to build their migration policies.

Cooperation with international organizations, primarily with IOM, greatly adds to our work on developing national migration policy and to our involvement in regional migration processes.

Thank you for your attention.