

**Statement of the Ukrainian delegation at the  
100<sup>th</sup> session of the IOM Council**

**Dear Mr. Director General!**

**Highly respected participants of the conference,  
Dear ladies and gentlemen!**

Please allow me to express my deepest respect to the organizers and participants of the anniversary session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration - I am honored to represent the State of Ukraine at such an important international event.

I would also like to congratulate new members and observers, who have joined our IOM-family today.

On the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the International Organization for Migration, I wish us all further success in the joint implementation of innovative migration policy all over the world.

First and foremost, I would like to stress that one of our most reliable partners in the strengthening of democratic values and high standards of human rights protection in the context of state migration policy in Ukraine is the International Organization for Migration.

I would like to say that in Ukraine we have 2 more great anniversaries: 20-th anniversary of the Independence and 15 years of IOM presence in Ukraine. And I can say that during all these 15 years IOM has always supported Ukraine in achieving our goals.

I am very pleased to inform that the Memorandum of understanding between the State Migration Service of Ukraine and IOM has been signed last Monday, and the respective Plan of cooperation for the following year has been drawn up.

While cooperating closely with the relevant government structures of Ukraine, the IOM helps us to minimize the negative and strengthen the positive aspects of migration.

Ukraine accords great attention to the improvement of national legislation in the field of migration and harmonization of European standards. The State Migration Policy Concept is a strategic European-type comprehensive document that provides the opportunity to solve most of the issues pertaining to migration.

It is known that in the conditions of globalization the process of migration gets more and more intense each year. According to the expert assessments of the UN, the number of migrants in 2010 equaled 214 million persons, and generally the number of international migrants may rise up to 405 million persons by 2050.

Thus, the issue of migration of populations throughout the world is a looming reality which we have to not only consider, but work jointly and systematically in order to develop mechanisms to overcome possible risks.

**In this regard I would like to stress that: when we are talking about the necessity of national security, preservation of public order or guaranteeing life safety and population health, various adequate decisions may be considered, the example of which are the compensatory mechanisms inside the EU itself.**

**Taking into account that the resolution of migration problems has long gone beyond the borders of certain countries, this issue requires the development and implementation of the migration policy agreed between receiving and supplier countries of migrants.**

Today, Ukraine is a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants. Ukraine, specifically, still remains a country of origin of labor migrants both for CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries and for the European Union. Part of these flows are irregular, and drain the domestic labor market while putting migrants in danger.

Due to its geographical location, Ukraine will remain a significant transit country for irregular migrants headed for the EU countries in the future. According to experts, the economic growth, approximation of salary levels to those existing in the European countries, as well as the demographic plunge, will weaken the intensity of emigration from our country. These same factors will likely make Ukraine more attractive as a country of destination for labor migrants.

It goes without saying that the IOM is an extremely important tool which, in the context of trends of constantly changing migration processes, will further play its part in their regulation and will facilitate the development of mutual cooperation between states and international organizations in the field of migration.

Engaging in joint cooperation with the developed European countries in the sphere of migration, Ukraine must form a strategic vision of migration processes, among which dominate the issues of integration, adaptation of migrants into Ukrainian society and creation of necessary conditions for the provision of social services to migrants. But the key means for raising efficiency in migration flows management lies in the improvement of the legislative and institutional basis and the development of flexible approaches in solving migration problems as a whole.

I want to reassure that Ukraine as a democratic and European country sticks to the key principle: "human rights have no borders". The migration policy of Ukraine is committed to the principle of the Rule of Law.

Ukraine has ambitious plans and the will to reach a high level of implementation of efficient migration policy, and I am sure that through joint efforts they will be achieved.

**Thanks for your attention!**