

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE OFFICE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS AT GENEVA



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**Statement by
H. E. Ambassador Zdzisław Rapacki**

92nd session of the IOM Council

Geneva, 1st December 2006

Madam Chairperson,

1. As I am taking the floor for the first time, let me at the outset congratulate you Madam Ambassador on your election as a Chairperson of this Council. My best thoughts go also to other members of the Bureau. At the same time we would like to express our appreciation for the outgoing Chair Ambassador Khan for his commitment and constructive role in providing leadership for this Body over the past year and in re-invigorating our discussions on IOM strategy.
2. Allow me also to welcome Republic of Montenegro and Nepal as new members of the Organisation.

Madam Chairperson, Mr. Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

3. Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by Finland on behalf of the European Union. I would therefore like to limit my statement to a handful of issues of specific interest for my delegation.

Madam Chairperson,

4. This year has been marked by many significant developments in the field of international migration. First of all, for the first time, the issue of migration and development has drawn so much interest and attention of the UN General Assembly and has been discussed at the ministerial level. It clearly shows the importance of this issue for the international community.
5. Preparatory process to High Level Segment brought about series of meetings at regional levels that touched upon different aspects of international migrations, including legal, social and economic aspects such as importance of Diaspora influence or the question of remittances. This has shown us not only the complexity of the issue but also the importance of dialogue and partnership at all levels.
6. Poland is the country that hasn't experienced massive migrants' influx, however, being aware of the importance of international migration in globalised world we are participating in the discussion on the development opportunities and benefits that migration could bring to receiving and sending countries and most of all to migrants themselves.
7. Poland, being for many years a sending country, has become, over the last decade a transit and receiving one. Due to our geographic situation, most of

migrants come to Poland from the East, many of them are from our neighbouring countries, but very many indeed come from Central, South as well as South-East Asia.

8. We strongly believe that migration, if managed effectively, could have positive impact for receiving and sending countries as well as to be conducive to the development of their societies.
9. Therefore Poland supports and participates in programmes of co-operation with Third Countries on creating conditions for legal migration and -on the other hand- has been participating in activities aimed at combating illegal migration.

Madam Chairperson,

10. Let me now turn to questions related to IOM's strategic avenues of action for coming years.
11. Poland is of the view that continuous co-operation of the IOM with other international organisations is particularly important because of the growing number and diversity of migration problems. We consider that this collaboration and dialogue should be maintained. It should result in improving working relations between international organisations in order to avoid duplication and ensure better coordination in the field. Therefore we welcome expansion and transformation of the Geneva Migration Group into of the Global Migration Group and we were pleased to participate last Monday in the interactive panel with some of its members. We hope that the IOM Council will continue to be updated on the activities on the GMG on a regular basis.
12. Poland considers that time has come to -first and foremost- define a place and the role of the IOM in the field of international migration, as well as to define priorities for the organisation in coming years. This process should be followed by re-consideration of its institutional structure and budgetary arrangements that should be in tune with priority tasks of the Organisation.
13. We hope that the ongoing consultation on the IOM strategy will result in comprehensive strategy paper that we would be able to adopt before June 2007.
14. With rapidly growing membership the IOM becomes more and more universal organisation and definitely leading in the field of international migration, therefore we think the IOM should serve as a platform for

information and best practices exchange between countries, civil society and business community.

15. In our opinion IOM should also continue to develop its research activities, to provide expertise, promote legal solutions for migration problems, provide operational assistance and technical support to States, especially in the field of voluntary returns and integration of migrants. The Organisation should also promote and assist States in implementing the most effective solutions and best practices in migration management.

16. Thank you for your attention