

Check against delivery

Statement delivered by
H.E. Ambassador Piotr Stachańczyk
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland

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

Geneva, 24-27 November 2015

Director-General,

I fully align my statement with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like also to present a few remarks from my national perspective.

Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since this is the first time I have participated to the IOM meeting as a newly appointed Permanent Representative of Poland I would like to assure you Director General of my personal commitment to relations with IOM. Taking advantage of my professional background, as a former Secretary of State for migration in the Ministry of Interior, I am going to contribute to discussions within the Organization and other migration fora on challenges and solutions related to situation of migrants and asylum-seekers.

I would like to thank Director General for his report describing accurately current migration landscape and challenges as well as foreseeing state of migration's future.

Poland welcomes Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Republic of Kiribati, the State of Eritrea and Saint Lucia as new members of the IOM as well as new observers. I would like also to congratulate Ghana Audit Service on its appointment as a new External Auditor.

Poland notes with satisfaction that migration has been incorporated into the Post-2015 Development Agenda adopted after more than three years of inter-governmental negotiations. Let me stress, that in this context, Poland finds the work of IOM extremely important. Migration is one of the key factors that shapes the development policies and programmes. Actively advocating for the development of human mobility potential, IOM contributes to the advancement of the world development processes and poverty eradication. We recognize also significant role of the Global Forum for Migration and Development in the implementation of migration-relevant SDGs

Bearing in mind the need to ensure coherence of actions taken by the IOM and the UN system organizations and necessity of involvement of the IOM into implementation of the new Development Agenda, Poland strongly supports the resolution on IOM-UN relations giving a formal mandate to launch negotiations with the United Nations. Taking this opportunity I would like to express my personal appreciation to the Chairman of the IOM-UN Relations Working Group – ambassador Bertrand de Crombrughe for his commitment and efforts, which led us to this tangible result.

Referring to migrants health issue, Poland supports establishment of health sector coordination platforms both at country and international level, with all relevant stakeholders, including WHO, UNHCR and IOM, in order to implement a coherent and consolidated national and international response to the health needs of the refugee and migrant populations in the countries of transit and destination.

Director-General,

Poland supports the activity of IOM on a regular basis. Additional contributions are brought to cover the implementation costs of joint migration projects. In order to raise awareness on human rights of migrants and to counteract the cases of discrimination and labour exploitation, we are implementing a domestic project on "Rights of migrants in reality".

Since 2012 over 4800 migrants have benefited from assistance in voluntary returns. Core beneficiaries of joint Poland-IOM activities in this field are Russian, Ukrainian, Georgian and Vietnamese citizens. Starting from 2014 we noted however less interest in this form of support which unfortunately is consistent with the global trend.

At the same time, we recognize the importance of coordinated, international efforts. To this end, Polish authorities cooperate closely with third countries, such as Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, in building their administrative capacity to successfully manage voluntary returns and assist in activities regarding implementation of readmission agreements with the European Union. Poland has also decided to extend the content of bilateral agreement with IOM on Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) cooperation in order to better prevent and combat human trafficking. We actively participate in addressing human trafficking for labor exploitation through the ADSTRINGO project, that has been initiated by the Council of the Baltic Sea States with the IOM field office in Warsaw as one of the stakeholders.

Excellences,

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Poland's commitment to the enhancement of developing countries capability in managing migration flows. In this context, Poland recognizes the importance of implementation outcomes from the Valletta Summit on Migration. Polish government decided to join the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa by providing initially 1 mln euro.

The objective to strengthen capability to manage migration flows, that we share with IOM, should be also at the top of the agenda of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit to be held in Istanbul. The Summit should serve as an opportunity to discuss the need for developing relevant and timely responses in cases of forced migration from conflict settings.

Thank you for your attention