

107th session of the IOM Council

Intervention by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva Ambassador Andrius Krivas

Geneva, 5-8 December, 2016

Thank you, Mr. President.

Lithuania aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and would like to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

Mr. Director General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year we celebrate the 65th anniversary of the International Organization for Migration. Lithuania commends the engagement and dedication of the IOM and its Director General to contribute to enhancing the approaches to migration that benefit migrants and host societies, as well as countries of origin, transit and destination. Lithuania will further support the IOM and we congratulate on the successful conclusion of negotiations of the IOM-UN cooperation agreement this year.

The challenge of migration is a global one and there is a need for active engagement of the entire international community in a comprehensive and long term manner. This year has been marked by important migration related event – the adoption of New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. Developing the Global Compact for Migration will be the next major step towards governing international migration. We stress the importance of consultative, open and inclusive process and support the lead role of the IOM.

As part of the European Union, Lithuania will further support the joint international efforts to solve the refugee and migration crisis. Lithuania also reiterates its commitments to share the burden with other EU Member States that have been strongly affected by the influx of mixed migration flows. Not only do we need to further assure

the implementation of agreed actions, but we also must be prepared for coordinated and timely action in case of emerging new migration routes. Fight against migrant smuggling and human trafficking, cooperation on readmission and return, should remain significant part of our actions to tackle irregular migration.

Lithuania also wishes to highlight that the situation in Ukraine should be kept in our sight as it still causes big human suffering, as a result of a neighbor country's aggression. The number of internally displaced persons in Ukraine, their increasing vulnerability to human trafficking and the lack of long-term solutions continues to be a cause for great concern. Lithuania will further support IOM in its activities helping and supporting host communities in their efforts to provide IDPs with shelter, training and employment opportunities.

Finally, I would like to thank Director General Swing and his team for the excellent job and cooperation. You have Lithuania's firm support.

Thank you.