

107th Session of the IOM Council
Intervention by Permanent Representative of Ukraine
Ambassador Yurii Klymenko

December 7, 2016

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

The delegation of Ukraine wishes to thank the Director General for his profound overview of the main challenges, operational and policy priorities of his Office. We commend IOM's endeavors to tackle unprecedented migration problems and related humanitarian crises.

In this extremely difficult time for us caused by the external aggression – by the hybrid war waged against my country, we truly appreciate continued vital humanitarian support rendered to those in need in Ukraine by a number of international organizations, in particular IOM. We are also grateful to the countries providing such assistance in full compliance with the norms of international law and Ukrainian legislation.

At the same time I would like to emphasize that given the complexity and the scope of the situation, especially at the winter time, there is a clear need for further humanitarian aid to Ukraine by the international community and we continue to rely on it.

With almost 1.7 mln of Donbas and Crimea inhabitants registered as IDPs, Ukraine, in terms of the number of IDPs, ranks first among European countries and is at the global tops. Most of our IDPs are elder, women and children and they are considered to be less socially and economically adaptive to the new realities in comparison to refugees and asylum seekers, most of whom are usually young people. Therefore, these IDPs require special attention and support.

The Government of Ukraine, on its part, continues to provide all necessary assistance to IDPs' better accommodation. It undertakes all possible institutional and legislative efforts to increase social and security guarantees

and ensure their human rights. We have also committed ourselves to close cooperation with all international organizations and mechanisms, as well as to taking on board their recommendations.

We commend your, *Director General*, recent visit to Ukraine on 5-7 October, that marked the 20th anniversary of the IOM Mission in Ukraine and, no doubt, gave new impetus to further fostering cooperation with my country.

Among the achievements over the years of IOM's activities in Ukraine, we are especially thankful for, I would like to highlight: the active engagement in countering human trafficking and assisting internally displaced persons in Ukraine, providing capacity building support for migration-related government bodies and support to community stabilization of the conflict-affected population on the East of Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman,

The current state of unprecedented migration crisis has indeed become an important test for humanity. We also have to deal with unforeseen circumstances that can bring crucial changes to normal state of affairs. For example, Ukraine from a donor country has been transformed into a recipient of humanitarian aid. This dramatic experience shows the need for urgent elaboration of a new paradigm for humanitarian action and enhancement of international humanitarian response.

We welcome the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants last September and its definition of the role of IOM in promoting and supporting negotiations on the development of the Global Compact on Migration. The Declaration rightly addresses the key issues of human mobility, including the need to combat xenophobia, discrimination, human trafficking.

At the same time, as the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko noted during the Summit in New York, there is an urgent need to create an international mechanism of responsibility to bring to justice a state that violates international law and fundamental freedoms forcing civilians to leave their homes, together with an international binding framework to protect the IDPs rights. It is also time to reestablish the position of a Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on IDPs.

To conclude, **Mr. Chairman**, let me assure you of our readiness to further support the IOM's efforts and activities in making our world better place to live.

I thank you.