



B E L A R U S

STATEMENT

by His Excellency Yury Ambrazevich
Permanent Representative of Belarus
to the UN Office at Geneva
110th session of the IOM Council
General debate

Mr. President,
Director-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, the delegation of Belarus would like to thank the Director-General for his annual report, in which he presented a comprehensive picture of the IOM's activities carried out over the past year, and outlined plans for the Organization's future work.

Human mobility is the defining characteristic of our time and is certain to remain such for many years to come.

As it affects all countries in various ways, we need to **harness its positive potential** and contain its negative implications.

The IOM's role in assisting its Member States in the above efforts is absolutely **crucial**.

In this regard we welcome the **Director-General's reform efforts**, including his "**IOM Strategic Vision**" aimed

at strengthening the Organization and its operations worldwide.

Last December, Member States adopted **the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** at the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakesh.

Belarus fully supports this document and believes that the Global Compact is going to shape the global agenda on migration for decades to come.

Therefore, we support **the new mandate** that the International Organization for Migration received with the adoption of the Compact.

We believe that, owing to its long-standing experience and expertise on migration matters, the IOM can effectively assist Member States with the Compact's implementation.

Moreover, we welcome the establishment of the **International Network on Migration**, which brings together multiple international agencies engaged in migration issues. We would like to congratulate the **Director-General** for assuming the role of **its coordinator** and for presenting already a **workplan** for the Network's activities.

Likewise, Belarus welcomes the launch of **the Multi-Partner Trust Fund** in July 2019, which was established in support on the Compact's implementation.

As a country that has been in the vanguard of international efforts against trafficking in persons, Belarus cannot help praising the IOM's work in this area. In particular, we welcome the **IOM's leading role in the Task Team on Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action** that operates within the Global Protection Cluster.

Mr. President,

The Global Compact sets out a number of important practically-oriented measures to deal with the **consequences** of migration. This work, however, may ultimately prove to be futile **unless we address the root causes**.

Indeed, according to the Global Compact, there are **various drivers and structural factors** that underlie migration.

War and conflict are certainly among those. Unfortunately, **the UN Security Council** far too often cannot intervene to resolve them, because of disagreements among **great powers**.

Over the past two years, Belarus has vigorously advocated the need for a **global comprehensive security dialogue**. We believe that such a dialogue should bring

about more constructive international relations, which will allow us to restrain war and conflict.

Mr. President

In conclusion, I would like to extend high appreciation to the **IOM for its effective field work in Belarus.**

In particular, we are grateful to the IOM for its landmark 3-year project titled *“Helping Belarus Address the Phenomenon of Increasing Numbers of Irregular Migrants”*, which we currently implement with the European Union’s financial support.

Thank you for your kind attention.