



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN
GENEVA**

Check against delivery

110th Session of the IOM Council

**Statement by
North Macedonia
under
General Debate**

Geneva, November 28, 2019



Thank you Chair,

Director General,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset let me congratulate you Mr.Chair on the election and wish you and the Council Bureau a successful work.

North Macedonia welcomes the leadership of the IOM on the question of migration, which is more pertinent than ever. Responding to emerging global migration challenges is of a paramount responsibility for the international community, but also for individual countries. My country strongly values what we have agreed on in the Global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration and gives a full support to the IOM in coordinating the UN Network on Migration.

We commend the efforts of the IOM for strengthening the capacity of the organization in future, in particular in mainstreaming the objectives of the Global Compact with the Sustainable Development Goals.

North Macedonia continues to uphold IOM's vision in defining strategic priorities and outreach policy. In this regard, we support the efforts of the Director General Mr. Vitorino, for improving the organizational capacity and the migration management activities of the IOM.

Mr. Chairman,

The security and stability of countries, but also the wellbeing of migrants and receiving communities, depend not only on governments' capacity to respond to crisis, but also on the institutional and financial preparedness of the international community to support vulnerable groups. Ensuring synergies between IOM's humanitarian and development operations is important on global, regional and national level.

In North Macedonia, IOM has been active in supporting the national authorities in capacity building activities in the area of migration management, including combating of trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants, protection of vulnerable categories of migrants and border management. IOM has supported the process of establishment of mobile mixed teams for identification of victims of trafficking, composed of social workers, police and civil society organizations.



Mr. Chair,

In tackling the issues of migration, countries of transit are equally important as countries of origin and destination. It is in this context that the recent Ministerial Forum EU-Western Balkans, held in Skopje, has shared light on the regional cooperation in migration and underlined the strategic importance of the Western Balkans for the EU security as well.

One of the conclusions was that effective border management and combating trafficking of migrants remain strategic priorities in tackling migration issues for the countries of the WB and for the EU. This is an important message to be considered by the IOM community as well. It demonstrates that close cooperation, effective management and information sharing are of utmost importance in managing migration and addressing its challenges.

North Macedonia has faced multiple challenges since the migrant crisis of 2015, especially in managing big migration flows. Even today migrants are present in the region and transiting. With the security situation in countries of origin far from being improved, such as the regions of the Middle East and Africa, the transit countries of the Balkans have to be better prepared to respond to new migration crisis. In this regard, we are looking forward signing the Agreement on border management cooperation (Frontex) between the EU and North Macedonia that would allow for more intensive cooperation and joint actions of the European and our police teams in fighting illegal migration and cross-border crime.

Finally, I would like to mention the national Strategy for cooperation with the Diaspora for the period 2019-2023 that was developed with the assistance of IOM. This strategic document is addressing for the first time the development dimension of migrant remittances, in particular engaging the Diaspora through innovative financial instruments that could bring more economic growth and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention.