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Statement delivered by
Mr. Zbigniew Czech
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of the IOM Council. I look forward to working with you in the following months. Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. At the same time, I would like to present a few remarks from our national perspective.

Director General,

Migration policy is one of the most sensitive topics, and developing adequate and effective solutions in this area is still a valid and significant issue. The geopolitical situation, as well as other factors like economic inequalities or climate change, clearly indicate that the migration pressure in the coming years will continue or grow. Therefore, developing solutions at all levels of management of the above-mentioned issues, as well as broadly understood cooperation between partners will play a crucial role to properly respond to the migration challenges.

Present unstable situation requires further strengthening cooperation with countries in the regions of origin and along migration routes. We should continue to provide them with appropriate support and help to reduce the root-causes of migration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The fight against the root causes of migration remains a priority issue. This also applies to the improvement of the capacity of countries in migration, asylum and border management, including in the context of cooperation in the field of returns. At the same time, it is necessary to strive to combat abuses that arise from organized crime related to migration, such as smuggling or trafficking in human beings.

Poland continuously provides humanitarian support in third countries. From 2015 it amounted to almost 105 million EUR in total. It is both bilateral assistance, as well as obligatory and voluntary contributions for the EU initiatives. **Poland is also deeply involved in border support** at the EU's external borders, as well as in key third countries, implemented through bilateral agreements and joint operations with the Frontex. Over 1 000 officers of the Polish Border Guard from the beginning of the crisis have been supporting our partners from the EU and third countries. At the same time, 113 employees of the Polish Office for Foreigners have been delegated to support the European Asylum Support Office, operating in Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and Cyprus.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The superior value in building the migration policy should be **respect for the right of our citizens to security and building this sense of security on the basis of trust in the activities taken by relevant bodies.** In the context of legal migration, our goal is to develop and implement a rational, adapted to the situation, migration policy which would significantly

take into account the security and well-being of the citizens. These issues remain within the competence of states.

The Polish government strives to maintain a proper balance between security issues and the needs of the Polish economy and the labor market in the context of legal migration. These needs must be met with regard to the regional and local situation, first and foremost with the use of existing human resources.

Director General,

Migration can be a source of economic growth and sustainable development, **provided that they is a free choice, implemented through legal channels, ensuring security for all parties involved in the migration process.** According to the Eurostat, **Poland plays a significant role in stabilizing the migration situation in Europe.** In recent years we have adopted a significant part of total legal labor migration to the EU, mainly from the Eastern Europe. Currently, the level of migration to Poland remains at similarly high level.

Eurostat clearly indicates a significant number of persons wishing to pursue their professional status in Poland. According to the statistics, **Poland was placed in the first place in the European Union in 2017 and 2018 in terms of the number of foreigners who were issued the residence permits for the first time, both in general terms and in connection with employment.**

In conclusion, let me emphasize that an effective migration policy can be built only on the basis of close cooperation among various partners in order to effectively respond to different areas of global migration.

Thank you for your attention