

Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland  
to the United Nations Office in Geneva, H. E. Ambassador Zbigniew Czech,  
at the 111<sup>th</sup> session of the Council of the International Organisation for Migration

Geneva, November 24-27, 2020

*Chairperson of the Council, Mr. Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We note that the IOM currently attaches great importance to the measures taken for migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in response to the crisis caused by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. In our opinion, these activities should be carried out in the spirit of responsibility and adequately to the capabilities of individual countries.

Our focus on migration should contain adequate and effective solutions. The crisis situation caused by spread of the pandemic as well as a geopolitical situation are continuously increasing the migratory pressure. Our present and future cooperation is fundamental in responding to the migration challenges worldwide.

We would like to emphasize here, as we also mention it on the EU forum as part of the work of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, that the key issue for Poland is to remain flexible in the selection of adequate and responsible measures to support migrants. We must give more importance to other, more effective tools to fight illegal migration. We appreciate the consultation activities of the IOM and UNHCR in that regard. We conduct ongoing consultations in this area aimed at mutual understanding and working out effective consensus solutions.

Let me use this opportunity to underline that Poland continuously delivers humanitarian support in third countries. Polish Border Guard persistently supports the EU's external borders, as well as in key third countries, implemented through bilateral agreements and joint operations in cooperation with Frontex.

*Excellencies,*

As regards budget modalities of the Organisation, we are of the view that zero nominal growth should be applied as a policy directive throughout IOM's programme and budget cycle. We therefore appreciate the fact that the Administrative Part of the Budget has been prepared on the basis of zero nominal growth.

A predictable, stable and transparent funding model is vital for sustaining the IOM. We note the Organization's overreliance on project funding and recognise therefore the value of introducing multi-year planning of Member State funding.

We welcome efforts to diversify the IOM Development Fund's resources in order to address increasing migration challenges. We favour the objective of securing a better balance of predictable and flexible funding sources for IOM's core structure as well as adequate financing for business transformation.

We are aware that reliance on tightly earmarked funds is not a satisfactory option. New innovative sources of funding should be sought for that reason, particularly given the challenges we are experiencing now.

The IOM Administration should be accorded greater flexibility to mobilize budgetary resources. It should bear in mind the need of facilitating reforms, including developing internal governance reform proposals that, while delivering positive outcomes, lead to additional cost savings and efficiencies.

We trust that the current review of grades and functions of positions across the Organization will enable it to address the issue of adjusting the salary structure and scaling down of salary levels in the IOM. This would allow us to better reflect the longer-term capacity to pay off the Member States in light of the harmful impact of the pandemic.

*Mr. Director General*

Let me express again our acknowledgment for all the support activities that IOM is performing in the area of migration, especially in the difficult and unstable times of global pandemic.

*Thank you for your attention.*