

**111<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council**  
**Intervention by the Permanent Representative of Ukraine**  
**Ambassador Yurii Klymenko**  
*(November 25, 2020)*

**Mr. Chairperson,**  
**Mr. Director-General,**  
**Distinguished delegates,**

The delegation of Ukraine wishes to thank Director-General for the report to the 111<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council giving detailed and valuable information on the Organization's activities, as well as providing vision of the further development prospects of the IOM.

We commend IOM's strong leadership over the last year in an attempt to find and establish new mechanisms for responding to the existing problems related to the displacement of persons. In this regard, we support IOM's reforming efforts to be better prepared for the current migration challenges in the world.

The Ukrainian side welcomes Malaysia as the observer of the IOM Council.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We commend the comprehensive and integrated approach taken by the specialized agencies, in particular IOM, on the ground in providing assistance to countries to better contend with the COVID-19 pandemic, including rapid response.

The Ukrainian side appreciates IOM's increase in our country of counter-trafficking efforts, especially in the pandemic time. Implementation of its support projects, including a countertrafficking awareness-raising campaign, has helped beneficiaries to prevent conflicts in the families, build psychological resilience, and restore confidence in the future etc.

The Government of Ukraine in its efforts of containing the pandemic while ensuring continuous realization of social and economic rights, has introduced a number of measures that would protect the affected population, primarily its most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Last summer, the Government of Ukraine has introduced the online information platform "Help Alongside" to provide targeted assistance to vulnerable populations during the quarantine period and to create conditions for attracting charitable organizations, NGOs, businesses, and volunteers to help people in need and ensure coordination of actions among participants of the platform.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We support IOM's greater involvement in responding to and addressing IDP issues. As it was mentioned in the Director-General's report, "in many crisis situations, vulnerable migrants often find themselves mixed with internally displaced persons and refugees". In particular, we welcome IOM's support of the work of High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement set up by the UN Secretary-General in October 2019. We are looking forward to seeing Panel's comprehensive recommendations next year on the solutions to internal displacement.

More than six years, Ukraine has been suffering from ongoing Russian aggression, the illegal occupation of the parts of our territory that have caused the displacement of more than 1.4 mln persons internally. According to the UN estimates, more than 3.4 mln persons in Ukraine are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection.

Ukraine appreciates IOM's continuing efforts to strengthen the protection and self-reliance of IDPs. We are grateful to IOM for assisting over half a million vulnerable IDPs and people in need in 24 regions of Ukraine since 2014.

Moreover, regular national surveys and face-to-face interviews, conducted by the IOM since 2016, to measure IDP's material well-being, social integration, and housing needs have helped assess the success of numerous IDP programmes in my country.

On our part, we continue to undertake consistent efforts to meet the needs of the affected population. One of the recent major developments were empowering IDPs throughout Ukraine to exercise their right to vote and participate in local elections as well as introducing compensation mechanism for property damaged and destroyed by the armed conflict.

Let me note as well that in 2020 a five-year joint project "Improving the living conditions of IDPs in eastern Ukraine" was launched. It envisages the construction of 500 apartments and the purchase of 60 apartments on the secondary market for about 1500 to 2000 beneficiaries.

Relevant government agencies, especially the State Migration Service of Ukraine, are actively involved in activities together with the IOM and its partners with the aim of better ensuring the rights and freedoms of persons in need and better providing necessary services to them.

I would like to draw particular attention to the cooperation with the IOM and other stakeholders in the following areas:

- emergency assistance to the affected persons;
- improvement of legislation in the field of migration and its practical implementation;
- promoting the institutional development of the migration management system;
- implementation of voluntary return of migrants who do not have legal grounds to stay.

In this regard, it is worthwhile mentioning the IOM project, financed by the EU, “Support for Migration and Asylum Management in Ukraine” to foster migration management in the country in accordance with best international practices.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We welcome the adoption by consensus in late October 2020 of the DG initiative on strengthening the senior leadership structure of the Organization which comprises the appointment of two Deputy Directors General and consequential amendments to the IOM Constitution.

We believe that this decision will reinforce the institutional capacity of the Organization.

Ukraine, for its part, Mr. Chairperson, will continue to further support the IOM's efforts and activities in making our world a better place to live in.

**I thank you.**