

**112<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council  
Intervention by Permanent Representative of Ukraine  
Yevheniia Filipenko**

*(1 December 2021)*

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

The delegation of Ukraine wishes to thank the Director-General for the report to the Council providing detailed and valuable information on the Organization's activities, as well as the vision of further development of the IOM.

We acknowledge the unique role of the IOM in coordinating activities aimed at ensuring the efficient management of migratory flows at global and regional level as well as in implementing measures contributing to orderly and safe migration.

Ukraine also recognizes IOM as a critical partner in humanitarian emergencies, including its efforts to address humanitarian needs stemming from the pandemic.

We value the assistance provided by the IOM in Ukraine in the development and implementation of an effective state policy in the field of migration.

We also note the successful implementation in Ukraine, with the support of the IOM, of a number of projects in the migration sphere and hope for further fruitful cooperation and practical assistance of the IOM in addressing pressing problems in this field.

***Mr. Chairperson,***

We commend the continued strong leadership of the IOM in establishing new mechanisms for responding to the existing problems related to the displacement of persons.

For the eighth consecutive year, Ukraine has been countering external armed aggression, which continues to disrupt civilians' lives and the country's infrastructure. At present, as a result of the continuing military aggression and occupation in Crimea and part of Donbas, the number of internally displaced persons in my country amounts to over 1.4 million.

We appreciate support by the IOM in providing financial and humanitarian assistance to the affected population as well as in improving social infrastructure in the resettlement and return zones and facilitating self-employment and establishing a free hotline for IDPs.

The Government of Ukraine continues to undertake consistent efforts to meet the needs of the people, who had to flee their homes from armed hostilities and occupation.

In particular, state programs providing housing for IDPs have been launched in Ukraine. The procedures for crossing the contact line as well as for issuing identity documents for those who live in the temporarily occupied territories or moved from those territories have been simplified too.

This October the Government of Ukraine adopted the Strategy for the Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and the Implementation of Medium-Term Decisions on Internal Displacement until 2024. The key goal of the Strategy is to create all necessary conditions for smooth and effective integration of IDPs in the host territorial communities.

***Mr. Chairperson,***

A year has passed since the IOM accepted, by voting, a new member. The member, which has annexed and occupied the territory of another IOM member. The member, which continues to pursue the forcible change of the demographic structure of the population of the temporarily occupied Crimea, as reflected in the UN Secretary General's report on human rights situation in Ukraine's peninsula. According to various estimates, up to over 500 000 Russian citizens have moved to Crimea since its attempted annexation by the Russian Federation in 2014. In addition, over 45 000 Ukrainian citizens have left Crimea due to intimidation and persecution by the Russian occupation authorities. Deportations also continue to take place, according to the data collected by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

Russia pursues these unlawful policies in defiance of international humanitarian and human rights law, in full disregard for the demands of the international community contained in numerous UN General Assembly Resolutions to end the practices of deporting Ukrainian citizens from Crimea and to stop transferring its own civilian population to Ukraine's peninsula.

These actions also contradict the principles enshrined in the Constitution of the International Organization for Migration, in particular that of the free movement of persons.

***Mr. Chairperson,***

As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the creation of the IOM, the world is witnessing an unprecedented example of an orchestrated migration crisis.

In recent months, we have seen attempts to exploit the vulnerability of human beings for political purposes along the EU borders. We strongly condemn deliberate putting people's lives and wellbeing in danger in violation of fundamental human rights. Such inhumane actions need proper attention and reaction by the IOM.

Russia's disruptive role behind the ongoing migration crisis at the EU borders is obvious. We regard such acts as nothing else but a new stage of Russia's hybrid war

which it has been waging against Europe. We stand in full solidarity with our partners affected by this hybrid attack.

Having witnessed all that, we, the IOM members, should ask ourselves whether the hasty decision to accept Russia a year ago as a new IOM member has contributed to the realization of the goals and objectives of this Organization.

Ukraine's answer is a resolute "NO".

But we should not give up in enforcing implementation by the Russian Federation of its obligations and commitments under the IOM statutory documents.

We must redouble our efforts in promoting the principles and values of our Organization to ensure our common resilience to the pressing challenges.

Ukraine, on its part, stands ready to continue to further support the IOM's mandate and activities aimed at making our world a better place to live in.

**I thank you.**