



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
G E N E V A**

113TH COUNCIL

Item 12, General Debate

Statement by Mr. Gordan Markotić, Ambassador, Charge d' affairs

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Croatia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the Director General for his statement and the update on IOM's current activities and the IOM staff for working so hard on protecting migrants all over the world.

Just as we were almost certain that the worst was over with the COVID-19 pandemic, there emerged another major crisis, namely Russian aggression against Ukraine which forced millions of people to flee their homes and search for safety and ~~and~~ somewhere else until they are able to be back home again. We must bear in mind that more than a third of Ukrainian population is on the move today and we speak about country of nearly 44 million inhabitants.

Moreover, this year another looming catastrophe showed its real, terrifying face – consequences of climate change that have no mercy on mankind, driving additional millions to poverty and leaving their country of origin. Such a forced migration has devastating consequences on state of mind of those forced to flee and we must be here to help them.

According to the WB report, climate change could force 216 million people in the world to move within their countries by 2050.

Mr. Chairman,

Croatia supports the IOM as the lead UN agency on migration. We recognise IOM's role in ensuring better coordination of migration related work within the UN system, notably as the coordinator and secretariat for the Migration Network.

Croatia also supports the Global compact (GCM) for safe, orderly and regular migration.

We believe that regular and legal migration are necessary and natural way to progress the fabric of both our society and our economy.

Croatia's objective is to rely as little as possible on the ad hoc activities used to address "acute situations" and to replace them with systematic, comprehensive and sustainable migration and asylum policy.

My country is fully committed to respecting the human rights of all migrants. Our ultimate aim is to ensure that migration takes place in a safe and regular manner, avoiding any loss of life, and providing international protection to those who need it.

Croatia registered this year the entry of 36.000 migrants that in comparison to the last year is increase of 145 %.

At the same time, we remain determined to protect the EU's external borders and ensure an immediate and appropriate response in line with EU law and international obligations.

Migration flows in Western Balkan are of our particular interest. Therefore, we welcome Skopje Declaration of 15 November that paves the way to sustainable migration governance in Western Balkan Region.

Mr. Chairman,

Migration is in no way a new phenomenon; it has been a part of our history and built in the development of each of our nations today. What did change, as our nations developed, were the obligations, as well as the rights of our citizens and the people we welcome on our territory. Comprehensive and balanced migration policies and partnerships built upon norms, practices and joint commitments need to continue across the globe to avoid loss of life and providing international protection for those who need it.

Thank you!