

*check against delivery*

**Statement by the Republic Poland at the general debate during  
IOM 113<sup>th</sup> Council (29 November – 2 December 2022)**

*Chair, Director General, Excellences,*

Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to address the Council in its national capacity.

From the very beginning of the Russian unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine this year, Poland continues complex activities to assist all citizens of Ukraine forced to flee their home to find safe haven in Poland or to transit to other countries.

In this regard, Poland would like to express our deep acknowledgment for the cooperation with the IOM Office in Poland which enabled a coherent synergy of assistance for Ukrainian citizens after February 24<sup>th</sup>. The support provided by IOM has had various and specialised forms, including: IOM mobile psychosocial support teams, educational integration programs for Ukrainian children, support at the National Stadium Polish ID number registration, training for new volunteers in the field of migrant and refugee law or launching a hotline for refugees and migrants in need. IOM has also prepared child protection leaflets to protect children during the emergency movement phase.

*Chair,*

Shortly after the outbreak of Russian aggression against Ukraine, Poland introduced a special legal act of March 12, 2022, on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine. We have observed some return movements in the summer, however, we expect a potential significant influx of refugees from Ukraine with a peak of the winter season as further possible attacks on the energy infrastructure may significantly intensify the increase in massive forced population inflows.

We are taking any possible efforts to be adequately prepared for such cases by adapting new facilities with appropriate living conditions in the autumn and winter for Ukrainian citizens. We are also pre-positioning some temporary collective accommodations with meals prepared by local governments and communities.

Additionally, we have introduced legal solutions that enable Polish citizens to actively engage in helping Ukrainians. Under the special legal act mentioned just before, anyone who provides Ukrainian citizens with accommodation and meals at their own expense may receive a cash benefit at their request for a period not longer than 120 days from the date of arrival of a citizen of Ukraine on the territory of Poland.

In all districts of Poland, so-called reception points are providing care for persons crossing the Ukrainian-Polish border. Meals, a place to rest, basic medical care, information on the rules of stay and available forms of assistance, and the regulations of legalizing stay in Poland are provided. There are also information points in all districts, where Ukrainian citizens receive information on possible assistance and other tips necessary for their further stay in Poland. Moreover, we are taking any possible measures to make all people staying in collective accommodation facilities to leave them as soon as possible, become independent and professionally active. It is worth highlighting that from among the refugees registered with the Polish ID number database, there are people of working age, and around 450 000 took up legal work in Poland.

It is also worth underlying that the Polish Police and Border Guard are constantly taking information and prevention measures aimed at avoiding the risk of human trafficking and sexual violence of migrants. Victims of these crimes enjoy the same protection measures as Polish citizens.

*Chair, Distinguished Delegates,*

In closing, allow me to underline that the driving force for various activities undertaken by Poland for the people forced to move are largely inspired by the actions implemented by international aid organizations, including the IOM.

At this point, Poland would like to express our deep gratitude for the activities of IOM held not only in Poland, but also worldwide. Your personnel, regardless of the enormous support for refugees and IDPs from war-torn Ukraine, continues to assist migrants from all over the world to return safely to their countries of origin and fully reintegrate. IOM also constantly strengthens the local integration of migrants in Poland and contributes to the fight against human trafficking by supporting Polish police officers and border guards, which is another example of IOM's tireless efforts to assist countries on the way to successfully manage migration processes in these challenging times.

*I thank you.*