



**Statement by Ambassador Dušan MATULAY, Permanent Representative  
of SLOVAKIA to the UN Office and other international organizations in  
Geneva**

**IOM 113th Council - Item 12 General debate**

**(30 November – 2 December 2022)**

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*Check against Delivery*

Chair, Director General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

*Slovakia aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representative of the European Union.*

I would like to join others in thanking the Director-General for his report highlighting the complex challenges of international migration amid highest levels of movement on record. We share the concern about the impact of overlapping global crises, poverty, health emergencies and food insecurity on international migration.

The delegation of Slovakia would like to express our appreciation and full support to IOM's important mandate and work, including its contribution to fostering international cooperation and coordination on migration issues. We thank the organization for its life-saving assistance to reach beneficiaries impacted by emergencies around the world including those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

Chair,

Since Russia unleashed war on Ukraine 9 month ago, one-third of Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes, including millions displaced inside the country. Slovakia, a country of 5.4 million people, has granted Temporary Protection to more than 100,000 of them.

After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, IOM has been providing assistance to affected persons arriving in Slovakia from Ukraine. Here I take the opportunity to thank the IOM for all its interventions, aid and support provided in Slovakia in connection with the war.

The Slovak Government is committed to continue supporting Ukrainians in need, including through partnership and collaboration with the IOM. In October, the Government adopted a new contingency plan to ramp up the capacity of the state to assist refugees arriving in Slovakia due to the armed conflict in Ukraine covering the period of October 2022 to March 2023.

Chair,

We are concerned about the risks, including for migrants, associated with irregular migration and smuggling of migrants. There has been a sharp increase in the interceptions of undocumented migrants in terms of secondary migratory flows from the previous year. The increased migratory pressure opens the question of returns. We are looking for possibilities, Frontex has supported us in our efforts, and there is a persistent need for cooperation with countries of transit and origin. We are also working with our neighbors and partners regarding illegal migration and people smuggling.

Before closing, let me welcome the success of the budget reform adopted earlier this year and reiterate our strong support to further institutional strengthening of the IOM.

Mr. Chair, as has been stressed, the global nature of migration calls for effective multilateral cooperation. I would like to conclude my remarks by reiterating the commitment of my government to contribute to its strengthening.

Thank you.