



# **BELARUS**

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## **113th session of the IOM Council**

### **High level segment**

### **The intersection between climate change, food security, migration and displacement**

#### **STATEMENT**

**by His Excellency Mr. Yury Ambrazevich  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Belarus**

Geneva, November 29, 2022

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Worldwide developments of recent years and months, unfortunately, testify persistence of numerous challenges in the field of migration, fueled by armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, and in general – by negative factors of the current transformation of the international relations' system.

Among such factors causing shocks, including from the point of view of migration prospects, one should note the policy of unilateral coercive measures of Western states affecting the export of fertilizers, grain, energy carriers, financial settlements, the transit of goods between countries, air transportation and others.

If this policy of the West, which has acquired a large-scale and unpredictable character, continues, many countries of the world and, above all, the least developed countries, vulnerable to economic shocks, food shortage and inequality, may become a new source of forced migration of millions of people.

In this context, it is very important that the IOM, along with other UN agencies, be active and vocal in countering the illegal sanctions policy of the Western governments. This should be one of the priorities of the organization in the context of the prevention of migration crises.

Mr. Chairman,

Belarus is convinced that it is unacceptable to tackle the problem of migration by building walls or punishing migrants and asylum seekers, by denial of access to territory through violent pushbacks maltreating these

people. It is unacceptable to base policies towards migrants and refugees on racism and xenophobia depending on loyalty or disloyalty to their countries of origin. This is particularly shocking when we are witnessing such a policy from the countries of so-called liberal democracy and «fighters» for human rights.

We call IOM to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the EU migration policy in terms of its compliance with international standards. Repeated migration crises in Europe indicate on systemic issues in this area.

We appreciate the balanced approach and constructive involvement of the IOM in resolving the situation with migrants on the border of Belarus with EU countries in autumn 2021. The main priority of our cooperation with IOM and UNHCR during this period was to create safe conditions for migrants and provide them with the necessary assistance.

In September 2022, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus, additional benefits in the field of employment, education, medical service and pension provision were provided for migrants and refugees in difficult life situations from Ukraine and other countries.

IOM has always been a flagship and an important partner of states in coordinating of international efforts to combat human trafficking and protect its victims. We believe that in the current conditions of increased activity of traffickers who take advantage of crisis, IOM anti-trafficking efforts should be strengthened. Belarus is ready to actively engage such efforts, including by sharing our best practices and capacity of the International Training Center in Minsk, established with the support of IOM.

The problems of migrants are a huge burden, both for host and transit states, and for IOM, which is facing a serious lack of funding for operational activities. Belarus supports IOM's efforts to find an effective solution to funding problems. However, let us be honest! To solve emerging issues, funding alone is not enough.

Well-governed migration might be achieved only by joint coordinated efforts of all involved states. In this context, Belarus is convinced that this process should be based on the principles of mutual consideration of each other's interests, justice and equitable dialogue, as well as recognition and respect for the diversity of the states of the world.

Belarus tirelessly calls for restoration of mutual trust among states through a global dialogue on security, revival of the spirit of San Francisco. More recently, we have proposed as a practical step for the United Nations to draft a Charter for the World's Diversity in the 21st Century, whereby all member states in a concerted manner would be able to set out some key principles for governing international life. Acceptance of this idea will help to restore global stability, including in the migration sphere.

Thank you for your attention.