

General debate of the IOM Council's 115th session
Statement by the Republic of Poland
(Geneva, 26-28 November 2024)

Thank you Chair,

Poland align itself with the statement of the European Union and the joint statement to be delivered by Ukraine and wishes to address the Council in its national capacity.

Let me begin by congratulating the Director General, Ms. Amy Pope, on the completion of her first year at the helm of the Organisation. We also congratulate honourable Ambassador of the Republic of Korea on the assuming post of the Chairperson of the Council's Bureau.

Poland supports IOM's efforts to promote safe, regular and orderly migration, including by monitoring the mobility of migrants, improving border management, promoting partnerships between host countries and countries of origin and developing projects to curb human trafficking. We are closely following internal structural reforms and improvements in organizational culture to make IOM even more effective and more transparent.

Chair,

In an era of globalisation and a shrinking world we are aware that the consequences caused by displacement situations - in Ukraine - as a result of an unprovoked and illegal Russian aggression - and also situations in the Middle East, Sudan, Horn of Africa, the Sahel, Asia and the Pacific region - will sooner or later affect our states.

We therefore appreciate that IOM is implementing or developing its Strategic Plan and regional strategies to effectively address all aspects of migration governance, providing incentives and pathways for legal migration as well as contributing to tackling unsafe and irregular migration.

Chair, Madame Director General, Excellences,

Since the end of 2021 Poland has been facing unprecedented challenges resulting from the instrumentalization of migration as part of hybrid attacks orchestrated by Belarus.

We must recognize that the weaponization of human suffering is a new and particularly heinous form of warfare that requires a firm response.

To this end, Poland is developing its National Migration Strategy for 2025-2030 which aims to ensure security and regain control over migration processes. It includes the right to refuse entry to individuals who misuse asylum applications, especially when there are grounds to consider them as a threat to public security.

We are also developing an effective system for both voluntary and mandatory returns of individuals whose asylum claims are considered to be unfounded or inadmissible. Concurrently, we are refining our integration programs for those granted protection, ensuring that they can make a positive contribution to our society while respecting our values and way of life.

Chair,

Our strategy is not just a policy document; it is a commitment to our citizens and a roadmap for responsible migration governance in an increasingly complex world. While acknowledging the advantages of a legal migration we assert our sovereign right to protect our borders and our citizens.

At the same time we recognise that no nation can address these challenges in isolation. Poland is committed to working closely with the IOM and the wider international community to develop comprehensive, effective, and humane solutions to the migration challenges we collectively face.

Thank you.