

General debate of the IOM Council's 114th session
Statement by the Republic of Poland
(Geneva, 27-29 November 2023)

Thank you Chair,

Poland align itself with the EU statement and the joint statement delivered by Ukraine and would like to address the Council in its national capacity.

At the outset, let me extend a warm welcome to the new Director General, Ms. Amy Pope, and wish her every success in leading the organisation.

Chair, Madame Director General, Excellences,

The Russian Federation's war of aggression against our neighbour, Ukraine has triggered one of the fastest and largest human displacement crises in the world. Poland continues complex activities to assist all citizens of Ukraine forced to flee their home to find safe haven in Poland. We have effectively implemented some good practices allowing for their quick integration and adaptation to our labor market, to which full access has been granted. Some 80% of Ukrainian refugees found employment, more than 750 000 are already employed and over 200 000 receive child care benefits. Ukrainians are also recorded in the Polish unemployment and job-seeking registers just as other Polish citizens. We are also supporting professional activation of mothers of children who have not yet started school, inter alia by providing extra day-care and children facilities. On the business facilitation, all citizens of Ukraine that arrived after the outburst of the war are allowed to take up and conduct business activity in Poland on the same terms as Polish citizens. Moreover recognition of Ukrainian titles and diplomas allows for more effective integration of Ukrainian citizens into the Polish labour market.

Taking this opportunity, I wish to express my gratitude to the IOM for its plans to implement diverse projects in Poland in 2024. They will undoubtedly enhance the further social integration of Ukrainian refugees, support our domestic asylum and migration systems in facilitating voluntary returns, and bolster the effectiveness of the Polish Border Guard in countering human trafficking.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

On a general note, Poland is of the opinion, that the IOM should be an organization focused on serving people; a broker of honest dialogue on migration, which will lead to the best outcome for the countries of origin, the migrants themselves and - equally importantly - for the hosting countries and communities. There can be no fair migration processes without meeting needs and expectations of all these actors. This phenomenon – or regrettably often necessity, stemming from various factors – shall not be abused; neither by any state nor by any non-state actors.

Promoting safe, regular and orderly migration including monitoring the mobility of migrants, better border management, promoting partnerships of countries receiving migrants with countries of their origin, as well as developing projects aimed at limiting human trafficking, should remain at the core of the IOM's activities

At the same time, we acknowledge the fact that international migration flows arise from diverse reasons. Aside from obvious factors – such as the fear for one's life, aspiration for a better future, political or socio-economic pressures - climate change, environmental degradation and shortage of food and water have increasingly become significant global drivers of migration. To this end, Poland calls for a such solutions that will focus not only on people who have already

been harmed but also on measures that will prevent further deepening of these negative factors.

Finally, considering the IOM's significant growth in recent years, Poland will follow your efforts, Madam Director General aimed at strengthening internal structure and improving the organizational culture, to make IOM even more effective in assisting countries on the way to successfully manage migration processes in these challenging times.

I thank you