



B E L A R U S

STATEMENT

by His Excellency Yury Ambrazevich
Permanent Representative of Belarus
to the UN Office at Geneva
108th session of the IOM Council
General debate

Mr. President,
Director-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The **International Organization for Migration** joined **the UN system** at a time when the international community began recognizing serious challenges related to migration.

Indeed, migration is now part and parcel of the **Global Transformative Agenda** built around the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda and other key global documents.

Belarus fully supports the IOM's involvement in the UN system's affairs, particularly, in its effort to develop a **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**.

We believe that **any follow-up should necessarily involve the IOM**.

One can often hear that the current effort to craft the Global Compact stands as an **opportunity** that is presented only **once in a generation**.

It may indeed be so. What is, however, important here is to **base our work on reality** rather than on rhetoric and wishful thinking. For instance, we should be realistic about the extent to which labor shortages in some countries can be met by migration from others.

What is also of some concern to Belarus is that we seem to be much devoted to addressing the consequences of large irregular migrant flows and less to **tackling the root causes**.

We firmly believe that, however perfect a compact we may draft, it would prove a toothless tool, like many grand documents in UN history, unless it effectively addressed the causes that had given rise to the problem in the first place.

These causes are well known. There are many of them, but, first and foremost, it is **war and conflict**.

Therefore, we must ask **why did they happen** and **what can we do to prevent** them in the future.

As Belarus sees it, it happened because since the end of the Cold War **we have been living in an orderless world**. Major global problems arose due to disagreements

between great powers. Thus, as a matter of priority, we need to find **new effective mechanisms for their positive engagement**. Minsk stands ready to serve as a convening place.

That was **the gist of the message delivered by the President of Belarus recently** at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Mr. President,

Belarus highly values its cooperation with the IOM. This year marks a decade since, together, we established in Minsk **the International Training Center for Combatting Human Trafficking and Illegal Smuggling**. Today, the Center stands as a recognized hub of excellence on the above issues, but also on some others like drug trafficking.

Belarus attaches great importance to developing a **dialogue and comprehensive cooperation on migration with the European Union**. We are pleased with the EU's latest steps aimed at implementing **the Joint Declaration on Partnership for Mobility** signed on 13 October 2016 between Belarus, the European Union and its individual Member States.

Belarus welcomes the EU's decision to provide **technical assistance** in the amount of 7 million euro to

develop Belarus' potential in addressing matters arising from increased numbers of irregular migrants. The project, with the IOM as a partner, is set to begin next year.

Thank you for your kind attention.