

Distinguished Spokesperson, Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen,

My country, Poland, has long and painful experience concerning migration and forced displacement of its people. In the XIXth century, Poland suffered from losing its independence, being divided by three neighbouring powers. It resulted in mass political and economic emigration. Cultural life and political leadership had to concentrate in Paris, not in Warsaw or Cracow, due to persecutions, killings, confiscation of land, imprisonment, censorship, discrimination of Polish language and closing schools. Millions of Poles emigrated to America, trying to find freedom and daily bread. Over hundred years without sovereignty, without cultural freedom and development in the home country was a terrible national experience. The next twentieth century marked by totalitarian evil of Soviet communism and German Nazi regime ended with another wave of millions of Poles forced to exile. As a result, up to one third of people of Polish origin live outside their homeland nowadays. In Poland, we do understand the suffering of being displaced, deprived of your family home and land of your fathers, your graveyards, churches, familiar language and nature.

That is why we do believe that the main issue to solve in the XXIth century is to prevent any need to migrate or becoming a refugee, to give people every possibility of happy and good life in the place where they are born. That is also why we will defend the right of every country to protect its citizens from any dangers of uncontrolled migration, any threat of spreading violence, social disorder. We do not want our citizens, citizens of Poland, to become refugees from their own homeland in future because of any invasion of uncontrolled migration and terrorism. We notice that this idea is shared by more and more people around Europe and in the World.

*Therefore we believe that the main goal of the negotiations on the Global Compact for Migration should be to facilitate international cooperation on migration based **on a balance** between an effective global system of migration management and the possibility of individual countries to sovereignly formulate migration policies taking into account their need to ensure security of their citizens.*

Therefore, we believe that the Global Compact for Migration requires a more balanced formula, better tuned to security issues and to the absolute need to reinforce joint efforts to minimise the scale of illegal migration, including the removal of driving factors behind illegal migration, and countries' obligations of readmission.

Such a holistic approach towards the development of organised and legal migration on the global scale will comply with the implementation of the goals of the new UN post-2030 Development Agenda. We should and would help people in their country of origin, and prevent unrest and conflict resulting in migration. Poland contributes millions of dollars to help people displaced from Syria, temporary settled in Jordan or Turkey. We doing this via a joined European Union program. Poland gives substantial aid to children in refugee camps via UNICEF. We should also mention that hundreds of thousands of people from Ukraine suffering from the Russian invasion and economic reasons find their new home, jobs and education in our country. We are trying to do as much as possible to prevent uncontrolled migration.

Adverse and complex phenomena that favour forced migration decisions must be removed as part of the shared responsibility of the international community. Therefore, the negotiations should focus on the achievement of development goals, thus enabling as many people as possible to live with dignity and fulfil aspirations without the need to leave their homeland.

Irregular migration is an unacceptable phenomenon and one of the main reasons of exposure of migrants to exploitation, human trafficking and forms of modern slavery.

Therefore, Poland highlights in the negotiations with the UN the need to strengthen cooperation on border protection and effective management of migration. At the same time, a responsible labour migration policy must take into account the needs and possibilities of the labour market of the host country. This issue is of particular importance.

Any international solution in this matter should differentiate between migrants, asylum seekers and persons subject to international protection; special attention should be paid to vulnerable migrants (children, women and persons with disabilities); we should focus on the causes of migration and the need to counteract it, especially to counteract smuggling of people and human trafficking, and dwell on the obligations of countries of origin to take migrants back, readmit them and ensure security.

The position of Poland is clear. We strongly believe that migration can be beneficial only when it is legal and organised and responds to real needs of Member States; Member States have the right to decide who to admit to their territory and must take into account the security of their citizens and protection of the public order in pursuing the migration policy; countries are obliged to admit their citizens and cooperate on returns and readmissions; stabilising the migration situation requires strengthening of cooperation on border protection and on fighting migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

In our traditional European and Mediterranean culture, there is a long and meaningful legacy of suffering in exile. We should remember that in a deep sense we are all strangers and sojourners in our life on earth. Remembering the mournful Biblical song sung by exiled Jews “By the rivers of Babylon” or the ancient Roman poet’s Ovid’s famous exile poems *Tristia*, we should prevent people with all our efforts from suffering from homesickness, which is nearly as painful as death.

Thank you very much