

REPUBLIC OF POLAND
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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High-level Dialogue
on International Migration and Development
General Assembly
Sixty-first session

S T A T E M E N T

by

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Poland

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Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Poland fully supports the statement delivered by Finland on behalf of the European Union. Let me add a few comments on the issues under discussion as perceived from our perspective.

Recognizing migration policy as a constant component of the development and modernization strategy of a country requires it to be based on reliable knowledge of the nature and consequences of migration phenomena both on the national and global levels. Therefore, we highly appreciate the initiative of organizing the High Level Dialogue on Migration. We also agree that our today's debate should become a beginning of the international sharing of experience gained in this field. We expect it to be a multi-thematic discussion on the complex issues of the migration phenomenon.

Let me also express our acknowledgments to the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, his team and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Peter Sutherland, for excellent and comprehensive preparations of this Meeting.

Madam President,

Although the international aspect of migration-related cooperation is highly significant, its regional level is of the key importance. Therefore, we express our support of increasing activities and participation of all the regional commissions of the UN system in migration and development issues.

It has not been a long time since we met at the Euro-African Conference in Rabat. Its outcome proved that such meetings should also be conducted in the other regions, including the Eastern Europe where the migration-related issues will – to an ever greater extent – influence the economic and social situation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Poland has been currently formulating the specific aspects of our migration policy. Historical events clearly show that Poles have been active participants of the migration processes. The EU accession integrated our country with the global and primarily, the European migration system to a higher level. The globalization processes influencing the migration phenomenon will also have an impact on migration in Poland.

We are not only a country of emigration but have also become a country of immigration. During the last decade Poland has become a transit and destination country. To an ever greater extent we have been experiencing the phenomenon of temporary migration. Therefore, we believe that the special attention should be given to this particular issue and its challenges.

Due to our geographical location, Poland is a place of migration mostly for the people from the East: from the neighboring European countries as well as the Asian states.

Madam President,

As a result of the political changes, in the last 15 years our country has established a legal **and institutional system for migration-related issues compliant with the European standards. This process is still in progress pursuant the evolving changes in the migration and asylum policy of the European Union.**

Poland has not experienced a mass population influx, however recognizing the importance of the migration at the global level, we actively participate in an international discussion on the development benefits resulting from this phenomenon for the receiving countries, countries of origin and for the migrants themselves.

Both our experiences and analysis of the migration policies of the European partners support our view that effective migrations management is possible but it should be based on an intensive cooperation and partnership of the countries of origin, transit and destination. Such cooperation should be led on bilateral, regional, multilateral and global levels. A constructive role of the NGOs and local communities is also to be emphasized. We are convinced that the most efficient use of the organization and financial potential of countries, regions, organizations and other partners will be best achieved by ensuring the **coherence and avoiding duplications.**

Madam President,

It is indispensable to maintain the mechanism of further cooperation of states in the area of migration within the United Nations. Therefore, we appreciate the initiative of the Secretary General aiming at establishing a consultation forum for the UN Member States, which shall provide a comprehensive approach to migration-related issues. In our opinion such forum is needed, however it should be established with regard to the existing UN structures and in cooperation with the **10M.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is the first time that the issues of migration and development have been raised at such a high level. I am deeply convinced that we all perceive these questions as being of great importance for further development and improvement of a global debate on this topic. We are all aware that migration is an always present phenomenon and therefore, our main task is to find the best ways to maximize its benefits and efficiently tackle the challenges. Poland is ready to take an active part and contribute to our common efforts in this regard.

Thank you.