

67th Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee

Geneva, 3 - 7 October 2016

General Debate

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Poland

**delivered by H. E. Piotr Stachańczyk – Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Poland to the UN Office in Geneva**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Poland aligns itself with statement of the European Union.

Mr. High Commissioner, Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman

Poland has been watching with anxiety and concern the growing numbers of displaced people affected by conflicts and instability, especially in Syria and in Ukraine. Guided by our sense of solidarity, we have increased our humanitarian and development aid in the Middle East region and to the East. The means are paid through the UN, the European Union, and as part of bilateral co-operation. In-kind aid, apart from the financial one, is provided. Poland recognizes the crucial role of UNHCR in humanitarian response and confirms its commitment to continue financial and political support for the High Commissioner and his Office.

Bearing in mind the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit and the 2030 Agenda, the co-ordination of humanitarian and development actions must start to be an imperative. It is crucial to provide young refugees, already called "the Lost Generation", with access to education and psychological support. In its humanitarian and development efforts Poland sets great store by education of children and young people. We welcome the adoption by the Executive Committee of two conclusions guiding UNHCR in the field of international cooperation and youth. Poland appreciates also the High Commissioner's decision to convene this year the Dialog on Protection Challenges devoted to children in the move.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman

Poland fulfils its obligations under the Geneva Convention. We feel responsible for ensuring all people fleeing conflicts proper protection consistent with international law, while making every effort to provide dignified reception conditions for refugees. Poland also maintain legal pathways for admission of Ukrainian nationals widely open, including by simplified labor migration mechanism. Since the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine number of Ukrainians seeking legal stay in Poland has increased significantly. During this period 120 000 Ukrainians applied for temporary residence and over million entered Poland on the basis of special category of entry visas.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman

Poland welcomes the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. We hope that this well balanced document will be as soon as possible taken into force by all stakeholders. Poland recognizes the role of UNHCR as an initiator and holder of the post New York process in terms of refugees. We believe that the Executive Committee is a proper forum for discussions on the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and make them success.

Our response should base on durable solution. Emphasis should be placed also to ease pressures on the host countries and to enhance self-reliance of refugees. At the same time we all need to step up cooperation aiming at eradication of irregular migration, including by providing accurate information about the opportunities but also the dangers and constraints. Too often refugees and migrants are misled by false promises of smugglers and human traffickers.

The primary goal however should be creating conditions that would help refugees return in safety and dignity to their countries. In this context Poland would like to underline that it is incumbent on the international community to eliminate the real root causes behind refugee flows and to restore to everyone the right to live in his or her home country. We shall never consign to the past the tragedy of refugees as long as we do not put an end to conflicts which often arise from imperial ambitions, ethnic hatred or economic interest.

I thank you.