

## GENERAL DEBATE

### STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Thank you, Mister Chair,

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to participate here today and to address you on behalf of the Republic Lithuania.

As a committed member of the international community, Lithuania contributes to the global effort of achieving the objectives of the GCM in the spirit of partnership and solidarity.

I am glad that since 2018 Lithuania has made a significant progress in modernizing the national migration management system.

Regretfully, the world has been hit by a global pandemic.

This factor has affected the implementation of the GCM objectives.

Moreover, recent time is also marked with other dramatic geopolitical developments.

In 2021, the Belarus regime has organized a hybrid attack against the European Union.

Thousands of innocent people have become an instrument in the hands of the regime wishing to use political pressure, and have been physically pushed into the territory of the EU.

We thank the partners of the international community and humanitarian organizations for their support in addressing this phenomenon.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Regretfully, migration is not always a choice.

Recent unprovoked Russian military aggression against sovereign Ukraine has caused consequences Europe hasn't seen since the World War II.

And Belarus also plays its role in that.

Currently about 14 million Ukrainians were forced to migrate and seek shelter from bombing and shelling away from their homes.

I have recently visited Ukraine.

The facts speak for themselves.

Destroyed residential districts, bridges, infrastructure, schools and hospitals.

There is no excuse for attacks against civilians and for genocide.

We recall the obligation of the Russia to comply with the binding order of the International Court of Justice and the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

Russia and Belarus must respect the fundamental principles of international law.

The war must be stopped.

Otherwise they should not be in UN.

I thank you.