

Mr./Madam Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,

I am honoured to address the first International Migration Review Forum and to share Lithuania's views on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

I could not start my speech with anything else but with expressing Lithuania's solidarity and support to Ukraine and to all Ukrainians who are currently forced to deal with Russia's war against them. We stand in solidarity with Ukrainians, who are showing resilience and courage in the face of an unjustified Russian aggression, grossly violating international law and the UN Charter.

Lithuania is putting all effort to support the Ukrainian people fleeing the war. More than 50,000 Ukrainians have arrived in Lithuania so far. They are provided with housing, food, medical care, and psychological support, social services and access to labour market.

In 2021, Belarus regime has organized a hybrid attack against the European Union by deliberately organizing and directing the flow of irregular migration to the European Union and putting thousands of people in a vulnerable position. Lithuania has taken swift actions and ensured that all irregular migrants have access to basic services, including medical assistance, vaccinations, state guaranteed legal aid, accommodation. Lithuania is making every effort to ensure that deceived people can return home safely.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Throughout its recent history, Lithuania has been a country of emigration. Only in recent years immigration and return migration gradually started to increase.

Labour immigration remains low in Lithuania and is concentrated in a few sectors of the economy. Lithuania ensures that third-country workers can access social and labour guarantees. To combat illegal work and exploitation of workers and ensure payment of social insurance contributions and taxes, Lithuania has recently adapted changes in relevant legislation.

Migrant workers who legally reside and work in Lithuania enjoy the same status as Lithuanian nationals with respect to the payment of state social insurance contributions. Persons employed under employment contracts are compulsory covered by social insurance of pensions, sickness, maternity, unemployment, accidents at work and occupational diseases.

The entitlement to state social insurance pension is not related to nationality. The pension is paid to a person who lives in Lithuania and satisfies the requirements for the relevant type of the pension.

Social security bilateral agreements help co-ordinate the social security systems of the respective contracting countries. Lithuania has concluded such agreements with a number of countries. Most of these agreements foreseen the aggregation of insurance periods for the entitlement to social security benefits and pensions and export of benefits.

Finally, Mr./Madam Chair, I would like to conclude by reaffirming strong Lithuania's commitment to work closely with national and international community,

as well as other stakeholders in ensuring human dignity and human rights standards for all migrants.

Thank you.