

**Statement by Hungary**  
**IOM Council - General debate**  
**28 November – 1 December 2017**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Hungary aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and wishes to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

First let me congratulate the **new members of the Bureau** for their election and I wish all of you a successful working year. I would also like to congratulate the two **new members of the organization**, Cuba and Cook Island for their accession.

Let me thank the Director General for his report on the work of the organization for the year 2016. As the Director General highlighted it, **2016 was a historic year** on two main aspects; IOM entered into the UN system and the process to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was launched.

Hungary wishes to welcome both events and express its support for IOM, as the global lead agency on migration, to keep its indispensable core values also as a **related agency of the United Nations** and remain a responsive, efficient, cost-effective, non-normative and independent agency.

Hungary pays particular attention to the process to develop a **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**, and in this regard, let me share the position of the Hungarian government.

As the experience of recent years shows, it has to be acknowledged that irregular migration flows are presenting major challenges for both the countries of origin, transit and destination. We therefore welcome that the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants recognised that **States have rights and responsibilities to manage and control their borders**, and to implement border control procedures, as well as the **sovereign right to determine whom to admit to their territory**, subject to that State's international obligations. **At the same time, it also emphasized the obligation of all States, as enshrined in international law, to accept without condition the return and readmission of their nationals who do not have the right to stay on other States' territory.** We remain convinced that the future Global Compact on Migration shall also be based on this core approach, emphasising that securing control over external borders and stemming the continuous flow of irregular migration must become priority in finding a solution to the migration crisis, as well as establishing a balance between the security aspects of migration and the right to asylum.

While recognizing that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance and with the aim of reducing the incidence and impact of irregular migration, we propose that global governance of migration should focus on **tackling the root causes of migration** with special regard to poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution, bringing help to people closest to their homes while facilitating return and readmission of persons not in clear need of international protection.

In line with this approach, the Hungarian government has put forward a unique effort in its **global humanitarian initiative, Hungary Helps**. This initiative aims to achieve far more than what one would expect from a country of Hungary's size, focusing particularly on assistance to troubled communities in their homeland, rather than promoting the resettlement to Europe of those in crisis zones.

Through the Hungary Helps initiative, Hungary helped to rebuild a war-torn Christian community near Mosul and reconstruct a Christian school in Erbil. The country provided 500.000 EUR of pharmaceutical aid, financed the construction of 200 houses in Telskuf, supported the renovation of 32 Christian churches in

Lebanon and launched a scholarship program to help one hundred young Christians and several hundred Muslim students who are suffering from conflicts in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me express the appreciation of my government for the excellent cooperation between IOM and the Hungarian Government during the last two decades. Hungary has taken part in the **Voluntary Return European Network** platform and has been implementing **Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration** programmes, coordinated by the Budapest Office of the IOM that has been running for more than a decade. Hungary has also been cooperating with IOM in the framework of the **Budapest Process** since its inception, acting now as co-chair of the process, in the frame of which the Silk Routes Partnership has given a new, revitalizing impetus to this regional consultation process.

Mr. Chairperson,

Last but not least, on behalf of the Hungarian delegation let me thank IOM staff members for their commitment and selfless work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson!