



Statement by HE Mr Vojislav Šuc,
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva
at the 109th Session of the Council of the International Organization
for Migration

Mr Chairman,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement made by the EU delegation.

We would like to congratulate Ambassador of Ethiopia for his appointment as a new chair to the IOM Council.

Human mobility has existed throughout the history of humanity. In our interconnected world, it has become a more complex phenomenon that requires comprehensive and cooperative approach on a global level.

Slovenia will support the adoption of the Global compact on migration in Marrakech in December in order to promote its main purpose - to strengthen international cooperation on migration in all its aspects: addressing the root causes, preventing irregular flows, and promoting safe, orderly and regular migration.

The implementation of the compact is the next step by the international community to successfully manage migration processes in the world. It will require strong political commitment and a vigorous collaborative effort, with the IOM in the lead. We expect intensified cooperation with the UN Migration Network, and we see the role of the IOM as the coordinator of all constituent parts of the Network as a crucial one.

Let me reiterate Slovenia's high appreciation for the work of the IOM, which will be specially challenging in the coming year, not only due to activities related to the implementation of the Global Compact, but also due to increased number of IOM's field operations. IOM's work in the

field has been of tremendous importance and value to all of us, but most of all to the migrants.

Mr Chairman,

While irregular migration flows across the Mediterranean were reduced notably in the last couple of years, recently, we are witnessing their increase on the Western Balkan route. So far this year, we have registered a five-fold increase in number of irregular migrants (more than 8.000) crossing our borders.

While we are able to manage increased flow, the trend is of concern. It is of paramount importance that coordinated efforts of the international community to achieve better migration management continue at an accelerated pace.

Successful integration of migrants into our societies is indispensable if we want to preserve the social cohesion, and prevent the rise of populism and xenophobia. Slovenian Government has started working on its National strategy on migration, which will put strong emphasis on efficient integration through an all-society approach.

We pay particular importance to integrating migrant children into our school system. Our Ministry of Education has successfully implemented a project of integrating migrant children into our kindergartens and the school system in partnership with children, educators, parents and local communities.

To conclude, I would like to express again our full support to new IOM Director General Mr Vitorino and his efforts to tackle successfully this global challenge.

Thank you.