

Montenegro fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU.

At the outset, let me commend the International Organizations for Migrations for its responsible approach to providing a humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced persons. Through its extensive international network, IOM has proved to be an important international actor in addressing humanitarian challenges, such as cross-border displacements in the context of disasters and climate change, rapid and preventive response to growing migration flows.

My Government recognizes a remarkable engagement of the IOM and its Director-General in the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, that has contributed mainstreaming migration challenges across many goals of sustainable development. We particularly commend the adoption of the new IOM Humanitarian Policy where the human rights approach is broadly mainstreamed across the humanitarian activities.

As many of us have pointed out, it is regrettable that thousands of men, women, and children put their lives in danger trying to escape the brutality and horror of war and conflict. A high rate of death, smuggling and trafficking in human beings, makes the international community responsible for developing an effective comprehensive approach to addressing both root causes and consequences of the problem.

The migration crisis that is facing the world has made an important role that IOM is playing in the international community even much more necessary. In fact, addressing this paramount challenge is indispensable without an active cooperation between states of origin, transit and destination with the leading international organizations for international migration, in particular with IOM. All the states have to recognize benefits from deepening cooperation with IOM's regional offices to develop their own national policies and approaches when it comes to migrations regulating.

My Government supports endeavours of all international actors aiming to address both the consequences and the root causes of the problem. A responsible approach to this problem means that we must joint our activities to effectively address a very complex task and to step up operational cooperation and work more closely in sharing information on irregular migrations, smuggling and trafficking in human beings. We also need a more sensitive approach when it comes to the issue of return, since returning asylum seekers who escaped the war and terror is never a legitimate option.

We are confident that a regional and cross-regional cooperation is necessary for developing a more sensible approach to the challenges each of us faces. In this regard, let me inform you that a Montenegrin representative has assumed duty of the director of MARRI RC with a clear aim to deal with problems of region in context of migration, as well as to strengthen a common strategy related to actual migration flows. In addition, my Government commends the results of the Global Forum on Migration and Development recently held in Istanbul. We also welcome the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis that will help addressing the needs of communities hosting refugees with a view to promote resilience and early recovery.

Montenegro is pleased that the close cooperation between the Regional Office of IOM and the Government has helped us create a solid legislative framework, in particular when it comes to border management, combating organized crime and corruption, illegal migrations, trafficking in human beings etc. IOM project aiming to support Western Balkans Countries in efficiently responding to the challenges posed by migration, has also contributed developing our national capacities in migration management. My Government has recently adopted the Strategy of integrated migration management along with the Strategy of reintegration of persons returned according to the agreements and readmission. With a support from IOM, Montenegro has drafted the Law on foreigners and has opened four centres that provide necessary administrative services to foreigners.

Although the main migration route is not passing through Montenegro, we are aware that intensive migration flows, mostly from Syria, but also from Eritrea, Somalia, Afghanistan, must not leave any state unprepared to provide asylum seekers with the life in dignity and basic needs. A new „Plan of action for measures in case of growth of the inflow of migrants“ was recently adopted. We have also established an Operative team that coordinates the work of relevant national authorities for the asylum issues. And finally, with a view to combat and prevent illegal migrations, the Border Police Department has adopted the Plan of stronger oversight of the state border with the neighbouring countries.

Mr. President,

We are pleased that the new 2030 Development Agenda, expressed in 17 Sustainable Development Goals, has recognized an important role that migrations play in developing more peaceful and inclusive societies. Only by universal human urge to provide a safer, better life for those migrants and refugees who are in risk of being subject to smuggling and trafficking in human beings, will we be able to achieve “orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people” as a means of reducing inequalities within and among countries.

Montenegro strongly supports the resolution to be adopted today on the relations between IOM and the United Nations. We are confident that it will be an important step in IOM keeping the leading role on migration issue through its own governance system, while at the same time ensuring a closer cooperation with the United Nations system, that each side will benefit from.

Having said this, let me assure you that Montenegro will continue to work closely with IOM within its overall commitment to protect the human rights of every migrant that arrives on Montenegrin borders, passing through or seeking asylum.

Thank you Mr. President.