



8 December 2016

STATEMENT

BY

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to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

ON BEHALF OF THE HUMAN SECURITY NETWORK

at the

107th Session of the IOM Council

Geneva, December 2016

Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Human Security Network, a cross-regional Network comprising Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Thailand and my own country, Slovenia, with South Africa as an observer.

The Human Security Network is an informal group of States that promotes the integration of the human security approach in policies and programmes at international, regional, and national levels.

Allow me to congratulate the Bureau for the effective coordination that led to another successful session of the IOM Council. We applaud the Director-General and his team for organising timely panel discussions on two very actual topical issues regarding the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and the Grand Bargain on Humanitarian Financing. We would also like to extend our congratulations to IOM as we mark the 65th anniversary of the organisation.

Migration is a worldwide phenomenon which represents a global challenge. Its effective management is only possible by united efforts of the entire international community in the spirit of solidarity and shared responsibility. The HSN welcomes the organisation of the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants held in September in New York. Its outcome document – the New York Declaration for refugees and migrants – is a very good and balanced basis for multilateral action in view of the achievement of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018.

The HSN would like to express its satisfaction with the adoption of the resolution on strengthened cooperation between the IOM and the UN at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly. By becoming a related organisation to the UN, IOM will even better serve the interests of migrants and its Member States.

International migration is an integral part of globalisation. The role of migrants for the sustainable development of both, the receiving countries as well as the countries of origin was recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We all need to understand the importance of promoting tolerance and diversity in societies by recognizing migrants' contributions. We should change the migration narrative and learn how to better embrace cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, as recently pointed out by the IOM Director General Mr. William Lacy Swing. More should be done to promote positive aspects of migration.

We have to join forces to tackle the root causes of large movements of refugees and migrants - conflicts, issues of poverty, lack of development and economic opportunities perspectives and job opportunities - particularly by increasing our assistance to countries of origin. We equally join forces and call for assisting those host states which - subsequently - are disproportionately affected by large movements of refugees and migrants.

The HSN believes that a strengthened cooperation on all aspects of migration management is key to better dealing with the large movements of people and

challenges the world is facing today. Contributing to the empowerment of women and girls, education and enhanced access to health for all at all ages is also essential for the eradication of poverty and inequality, promoting sustainable development to both receiving and sending countries as well as significant contribution towards achieving balanced and inclusive societies.

The HSN believes that special attention should be paid to assure human security and is convinced that human dignity and respect for the human rights of migrants as well as of the local population should be at the heart of our action.

The HSN would like to underline that a human security based approach should be taken into account when working towards the preparation of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration to be adopted in 2018.

Thank you.