

**Statement by Hungary  
IOM Council - General Debate  
26-29 November 2019**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Hungary aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU 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 also wish to congratulate **Lebanon, a new member of the organization**, for its accession.

Mr. Chairperson,

Hungary's excellent **cooperation with IOM** dates back to 1991, when after the change of the socialist regime, Hungary became a member of the organization. The Hungarian Government is grateful to IOM for its long-standing cooperation in various areas falling under its mandate, especially in fight against trafficking in human beings, protection of victims of trafficking and migrant smuggling and implementing Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programmes, all coordinated by the Budapest Office of the IOM.

These areas of cooperation are in line with the **Hungarian Government's migration policy, which has not changed since 2015**, when Hungary experienced a massive flow of mixed arrivals.

It is to be acknowledged that irregular migration flows are presenting major challenges for countries. In this regard, it is important to stress that States have rights and responsibilities to tackle illegal migration and 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 is an 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 another States' territory**. In this regard, we need stronger cooperation between countries of origin and destination and on sustainable reintegration programmes that give real prospects for migrants in their own country.

**Sustainable reintegration** is also linked to economic development and the creation of employment opportunities in countries of origin. In 2019, Hungary adopted its **Africa Strategy** that highlights the importance of developing the economies of sub-Saharan countries, spurring job creation and improving local living conditions thereby enabling people to find prosperity in their own countries, rather than departing on perilous journeys in search for better lives.

We remain convinced that this approach, together with **addressing the root causes** of irregular 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 must be in the core of a comprehensive approach to migration. This is why all these elements are key to our international development cooperation aiming at establishing long lasting economic partnerships in order to create local conditions more conducive to stable growth and reduce risks.

In the framework of **Hungary Helps programme** launched in 2016, long term humanitarian and development aid is provided where it is needed and we also facilitate the knowledge transfer through scholarships and training programmes, such as the **Stipendium Hungaricum** launched in 2013.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is our firm view, **that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**, on the other hand, does not resolve the socio-economic, political or environmental challenges in countries of origin but rather **suggests that international migration can be the general solution**. For these reasons, Hungary did not vote in favour of the Compact in the General Assembly of the United Nations, and is not taking part in its implementation.