



STATEMENT BY SLOVENIA

110TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Geneva, 26 - 29 November 2019

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

I would like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Slovenia continues supporting IOM as the lead agency in the field of international migration. Let me express our sincere appreciation for the able leadership of the Director General as well as for the dedicated work of the IOM staff in the field and at the Headquarters.

Slovenia supported the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in order to strengthen globally international cooperation on migration in all of its aspects. Only the implementation of the compact will ensure successful management of the migration. It requires a strong political commitment and a vigorous collaborative effort, with the IOM in the lead.

In July this year, our Government adopted National strategy on migration addressing migration in a multifaceted, comprehensive and long-term manner, placing emphasis on understanding of all aspects of migration. The Strategy reflects Slovenia's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the context of migrations.

Integration of migrants into our societies is indispensable in preserving the social cohesion. Our Government is aware of the importance of providing the conditions for successful integration of foreigners into the cultural, economic and social life.

It is of particular importance to integrate migrant children into our school system. According to the provisions of Slovenian legislation, children of migrants have the right to enrol in primary and secondary school under the same conditions as the children of Slovenian citizens. The formal education is accompanied by intercultural dialogue, raising awareness about the positive impact of migration on the development of society. In spring 2016, a worksheet entitled "Children-Refugees" was introduced in the Slovenian education system as a tool for raising awareness of the universal rights of migrant children under the "Convention on the Rights of the Child".

Slovenia continues to pay particular attention to vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied children. Social Work Centres appoint a legal guardian for them and

ensure the placement procedure in accordance with the relevant regulations. Older unaccompanied children are accommodated in a boarding school.

Mr. Chair,

We would like to underline great stress — both psychological and physical — that the migration journey can seriously affect the people, particularly vulnerable groups. The Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants provides to migrants accommodation, support and psychosocial assistance, aiming at reducing their vulnerabilities and preventing their stagnation.

New technologies enable greater opportunities and possibilities to gather non-traditional data. However, they require more responsibilities and ethical reflection. A rise of violent hate crime in times of "fake news" demands a greater need than ever for reliable facts to present a true picture of what migration is. University of Ljubljana - Faculty of Social Sciences coordinates a project "Web Eye" which ensures anonymous reporting of hate speech on the Internet, in close collaboration with the Slovenian Police.

A comprehensive approach to migration requires genuine partnerships between countries of origin, transit and destination. We are here to learn from our successes and shortcomings, and to commit ourselves to do more and to do it better. We must work resolutely and coherently together to address the root causes, preventing irregular flows, promoting safe, orderly and regular migration and to "leave no one behind". Let me express that Slovenia is ready to share good practices and good stories in the field of migration with other countries.

Migration is a major contributor to all aspects of economic and social development worldwide, and as such will be essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.