



## **STATEMENT BY SLOVENIA**

### **111<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

**Geneva, 24 - 27 November 2020**

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 commend IOM staff, including the UN Network on Migration, for their dedicated work providing assistance to migrants in need and encouraging development through migration.

Migration has always been a complex phenomenon. COVID-19 has additionally aggravated the already complex challenges and impacted international movement and migration at an unprecedented level. Vulnerable groups, such as migrants and refugees, were disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Therefore, it is essential to address their needs in a holistic and sustainable manner by engaging the entire international community in the spirit of shared solidarity and responsibility.

Slovenia pays special attention to protect vulnerable populations, including migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, from the COVID-19 infection. Since February 2020, refugees were given information about preventive measures and precautions in a language they understand, individually with a help of translators or through information sheets provided in asylum centers and integration accommodation houses for refugees. The COVID testing and appropriate health care are provided for all, regardless of their status.

The COVID-19 crisis has also highlighted our interdependence and interconnectedness. Cooperation on multilateral, regional and bilateral level is more important than ever, especially in the field of migration. Slovenia supports comprehensive, tailor-made migration partnerships that take into account the objectives in all policy sectors and ensure coherence between migration and other policy fields.

That is why Slovenia's development cooperation focuses on eradicating poverty and inequalities in order to mainstream sustainable solutions and address root causes of migration.

Education is another important policy field. 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.

Slovenia will continue to engage in joint global efforts in order to enhance the goal of safe, orderly and regular migration.