

**The Address by the Republic of Slovenia
at the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM),
10-11 December 2018 in Marrakesh**

Humanity has always been on the move. Today's globalized world has made migration a more complex phenomenon that requires comprehensive and cooperative approach on a global level.

Slovenia welcomes the Global Compact as a historic achievement, a milestone in the comprehensive management of safe, orderly and regular migration. The compact creates the first UN-wide framework covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

Slovenia supports the adoption of Global Compact in order to promote its main purpose - to strengthen international cooperation on all aspects of migration: addressing the root causes, preventing illegal migration, preventing trafficking and smuggling of human beings, and promoting safe, orderly and regular migration. This cooperation is urgently needed and long overdue.

This conviction is based on our own experience from the massive flow of refugees and migrants on the Western Balkans route, which Slovenia had to face in winter of 2015/2016. Pushed to the limits of our capabilities to manage the flows, Slovenia was among the first to call for a better exchange of information and closer cooperation among the countries along the route. It showed the importance of effective regional cooperation.

The current migration situation works for no-one: countries of origin are experiencing brain drain, migrants are dying at sea and in the deserts, transit countries are struggling to organize accommodation, care and assistance to refugees, and countries of destination are facing the impacts of disproportionate pressure to their absorption systems and labor markets. Xenophobia and discrimination against migrants are on the rise.

In order to tackle the root causes of illegal migration, we need to discuss migration in a comprehensive manner and include states, international organizations and other stakeholders to cooperate in a spirit of partnerships, solidarity and shared responsibility.

Inevitable part of orderly migration is return and readmission, which needs to be a part of any future solutions in the area of migration. We have to bear in mind also challenges for internal security posed by poorly managed migration flows.

A result of extensive and complex negotiations among more than 180 countries, international organisations and civil society, the Global Compact on Migration is not a perfect document, but a good compromise.

It represents a framework for cooperation, and a source of recommendations and good practices that countries can draw from when designing their own migration policies. In implementing the Global Compact, Slovenia will apply the following principles:

- The Global Compact is not legally binding.

- The GCM respects the sovereignty of States and their prerogative to determine the national immigration policy and laws. A clear distinction between regular and irregular migrants will be applied in the reading of the Compact.
- The GCM is primarily addressing how migration is taking place, not the extent of migration.
- The GCM clearly recognizes the obligation of all States to duly receive and readmit their own nationals, which is an essential element of a well-functioning global migration system.
- Assisted voluntary return is a preferable option, but not the only option.
- The GCM recognizes the universality of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Addressing migration at its roots represents the most efficient and sustainable solution. Slovenia is strongly committed to this goal.

The implementation of the Compact is the next step by the international community to manage global migration processes successfully. It will require strong political commitment and a vigorous collaborative effort, with the IOM in the lead. We expect intensified cooperation with the UN Migration Network with the strong role of the IOM as the coordinator of all constituent parts of the Network.

A recent significant increase of the irregular migration flows on the Western Balkan Route proves it is of paramount importance that coordinated efforts of the international community to achieve better migration management must continue at an accelerated pace.

We call upon all countries, including those that decided not to support the Compact, to join our efforts. No country can tackle this issue on her own.

Migration has been part of the human experience throughout history. It is our task to make it work for all.