

PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA ROUMANIE
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

Check against delivery

STATEMENT

**By H.E. Mr. Lazăr COMĂNESCU
Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**High Level Meeting on addressing large movements of refugees
and migrants**

Round table 4

New York, 19 September 2016

Mr. Chairman

With the growing number of conflicts and crisis worldwide, the international community is faced with an unprecedented scale of refugees flow.

Concrete actions and commitments aimed at helping states and communities to better prepare for and respond to crisis and to be resilient to shocks can no longer be delayed.

The first ever World Humanitarian Summit of Istanbul, followed by the high level meeting of today, create the platform for a cohesive approach and response in dealing with large movements of refugees by **reinforcing existing frameworks and developing innovative ways of action.**¹

The Political declaration adopted today lays a solid ground for strengthened international cooperation based on international solidarity and shared responsibility. *Romania pledges its constructive engagement in the follow-up work towards adopting the Global Compacts in 2018.*

Romania considers that durable solutions require equal consideration to consequences and the **root causes**. Reversing the current trend of deepening crisis could not be sustained on the long run, if the under-lying causes of such movements are not addressed, including through genuine efforts of **political leadership** aimed at **conflict prevention and resolution**. And here, the UN, mainly through the UNHCR, is in the lead.

Mr. Chairman

While we fully acknowledge the need to **share responsibility** to manage large movements of **refugees**, **Romania has already contributed** in different forms to these joint efforts and will continue to do so.

Since 2008, **Romania** has gradually increased its contribution in the humanitarian field as a donor and resettlement country.

In addition to bilateral contributions, Romania has also increased its earmarked contributions to UN organizations such as UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNRWA and the World Food Programme. We will continue to support solutions that combine innovative humanitarian, development and economic instruments, supported by political dialogue and partnerships.

To emphasis and strengthen the link between development cooperation and humanitarian aid, Romania promoted a **new legal framework**. The aim of the new law, which is currently being discussed in the Parliament, is to establish a **coherent and unified approach in terms of support and assistance offered to countries in need, to refugees and internally displaced people, and to ensure a clear link between development and humanitarian action.**

One of the objectives is to create **innovative and flexible instruments** that can contribute to, *inter alia*, address the root causes of refugee crisis, support countries of origin and host communities in finding sustainable solutions to their needs. Nonetheless, the expected new law will support the establishment of new partnerships with countries in need and will assure appropriate funding responses.

¹ Obiectivul Documentului *Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework* – care se adoptă în ziua respectivă.

This new policy framework is an integral part of our engagement, commitment and shared responsibility with countries and population most in need. We aim at concentrating our efforts on measures that include education, basic services, development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, as well as political dialogue.

As an **EU Member State**, Romania has supported a coordinated EU response and has expressed, from the outset, its openness to participate to the **relocation and resettlement efforts** on a **voluntary basis**. In addition to financial contribution, Romania is contributing substantially, with human resources and technical means, to the border control, as well as search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea.

A recent development of great concern for all of us is the fact that xenophobic and racist rhetoric is more and more present and accepted politically and socially which create a dangerous generalization of isolated negative facts in relation with refugees/migrants and the suffering of millions of people or the positive impact of legal migration. We should more exigent and make sure that the measures combatting discrimination should include both the sanctioning of such acts and awareness rising in this field of combating racism and xenophobia.

Mr. President,

The human mobility, as an unescapable manifestation of globalization, is growing in scale and complexity. We have no choice but to find ways to efficiently manage it to the benefits of all, in a way consistent with international law and human rights. Migration management laws that safeguard the human rights of migrants can actually enhance state sovereignty by protecting national security.

At the same time, the strain placed on the global refugee regime and the limited access to durable solutions have already pushed us to reconsider relations between the humanitarian and developments actors, to shift focus on supporting the self-resilience of both forcibly displaced people and the host communities and to look to additional pathways for admission.

Change is already happening, but further considerable efforts are still needed. It is up to us to build on the existing regional experiences and initiatives in the follow-up process to this Summit.

Romania will continue to advocate for strengthening respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) and constructively engage in discussions on possible ways to improve compliance with IHL. The main problem in contemporary armed conflicts is not the lack of adequate norms but the trend of increasingly serious violations of those that already exist. Finding means to ensure IHL implementation is thus one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges.

I hope that this Summit will give impetus to a global reflection on how to best deal with migration, how to share responsibility and how to improve the engagement the countries of origin in a pragmatic partnership to manage this complex phenomenon.

Thank you!