



ROMANIA

High Level Side Event on
*Strengthening cooperation on migration and refugee movements under the
new development agenda*

Elements of intervention by
H.E. Daniel Ioniță
State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania

- Migration is and will definitely continue to be one of the major topics on the European and international agenda, due to the economic, social and political impact of this phenomenon.
- In front of this challenge of unprecedented magnitude, a fundamental reframing of the debate on migration is needed, in order to identify and implement the most appropriate instruments to be put in place in the countries of origin and transit.
- There are neither simple solutions nor quick fixes. We need to act both internally and externally, on the entire chain of the migration flows. Our first priority should be to respond effectively to the root causes of the increased migratory pressure. Only a comprehensive approach, based on the effective use of crisis management instruments in the countries of origin and transit, on economic and social capacity-building tools and development policies, and a real partnership with these countries can be efficient in managing migration in a lasting manner.
- The situation is particularly complex and its settlement can only be made through cooperation, by joint actions, including with the strong involvement of all international actors, the UN specialized agencies, the Red Cross and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
- Romania has an active and substantial involvement at international level in the efforts focused towards the management of the migration challenges. Thus, Romania responded positively to the appeals launched by the UN and other international actors, by providing assistance, starting with 2012, to the people of Syria and the Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. Furthermore, Romania is financing different programmes aiming at better managing the migration issue in countries like Afghanistan, Belarus or Ukraine.
- Romania also supported a coordinated, common EU response to these challenges. It is also worth mentioning that Romania created already since 2008, together with the UNHCR and IOM, the Emergency Transit Centre for Refugees in Timișoara with a capacity of 200 places – more than 1700 refugees have already passed through the centre, which is the first such facility in the world. Romania also committed to the participation to the emergency relocation mechanism to the benefit of Italy and Greece, taking into account its relocation and integration capacities.
- Romania also actively contributes to the activity of the European dedicated agencies, being the second contributor, after Germany, to FRONTEX operations. Furthermore, Romania recently responded positively to the appeal launched for further consolidating this contribution.