

Albania

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Address by the
President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. Ilir Meta
On the High Level Intergovernmental Conference
“Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular
Migration”,
Marrakech, 10 December 2018
Speaker no.7

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

~~It is a great pleasure to be here today in the beautiful city of Marrakech. The issue we have on the table today is both very sensitive and very serious.~~

Global Compact is the result of a growing global trend of migration. It is the result of our shared concern.

But it is also result of the necessity for a collective response in partnership and solidarity within a multilateral framework.

Global Compact is responsibility towards life and dignity of people.

All our countries, be it of origin, of transit or of destination, are affected by migration.

And by experience we have learnt that we can address this phenomenon only in partnership, because it is a very difficult and complex process.

It is about human rights; it is about border management; it is about financial costs; it is about social cohesion; it is about sovereignty, and I could go on forever.

We should not allow to be weakened by human mobility. Instead, we need empower ourselves through establishing a more humane, dignified and secure mechanism to govern migration.

The Global Compact largely reflects this mindset, encompassing the objectives and principles of the United Nations, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of relevant treaties on refugees and migrants.

I also fully share the view of those who caution that Global Compact should not be seen as an investing instrument to encourage migration.

Rather we see it as a roadmap recognising that respect for international law, national sovereignty, rule of law and border management, are fundamental to successfully dealing with all aspects of this phenomenon.

Albania and migration are not unknown to each-other.

That is why we attach special importance to this issue, remaining fully engaged to our international commitments and pledging to honour the objectives of the UN Global Compact.

As an EU candidate country, Albania has aligned asylum and migration policies with the acqui and with the Geneva Convention.

We are working closely with European and other neighboring countries to address migration challenges. We have recently signed a Status Agreement with the European Border and Coastguard Agency.

This agreement provides for a better and coordinated operational cooperation between Albania and EU member states on migration matters.

We are also closely cooperating with the International Organization for Migration to prepare a contingency plan in view of current developments.

We will launch the new *National Strategy on Migration Governance* in a symbolic day, on the occasion of *International Migrants' Day*, on 18 of December.

We are well aware of the great responsibilities we have as an international partner as well as of our modest and limited capacities.

That is why Albania believes that only through genuine and strong partnerships we can tackle migration as a phenomenon, either way it fashions itself.

We stand in solidarity with all countries affected by migration, and today's Global Compact could only seal this most needed partnership.

~~Albania fully endorses the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.~~

Thank you!