



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO**

**AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO ADOPT
THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND
REGULAR MIGRATION
(MARRAKECH, 10-11 DECEMBER 2018)**

[Check against delivery]

Mr. Secretary-General,
Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to warmly thank the Secretary-General for drawing our attention to the topical issue of migration and for facilitating the adoption, on this solemn occasion, of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

I would also like to commend all other key players for this success, in particular the co-facilitators from Mexico and Switzerland, and the



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Kingdom of Morocco for the warm welcome and for hosting this Conference.

Mr. President,

We are all aware of an undeniable fact: human history as a whole is intrinsically linked to the history of migration. This phenomenon keeps on writing the pages of history of all the countries represented here today. Each nation has faced the challenges - and enjoyed the opportunities - presented by migrations.

Migration is undoubtedly a complex phenomenon. It concerns dimensions that are different by definition: different geographical and legal dimensions, different motivations, social backgrounds, obstacles, institutional responses and outcomes.

Therefore, there is no compact that can encompass or solve it. Indeed, today, thanks to hard work and hope, we are reaching a milestone. But there is still a long way to go. We must not lower our efforts and attention. We need to continue being proactive in order to adapt to the constantly evolving forces at play.

But today we pledge, regardless of any future development, to never give up relying on international cooperation to ensure a response based on respect for human rights, security, and dignity of every individual.



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Mr. President,

San Marino history is no exception. Migration characterises the very essence and existence of our ancient Republic. Marino, our very Founder came from Dalmatia, in present Croatia, one thousand seven hundred eighteen years ago.

Moreover, not everyone knows that during the Second World War San Marino hosted one hundred thousand refugees from neighbouring regions in its territory of sixty-one square kilometres, when the population was approximately ten thousand.

In the same way, San Marino looks with comparable attention and sensitivity to the present events shaping the Mediterranean basin into a sad theatre of human suffering. In the wake of its tradition, our country has met its responsibility to welcome migrants, for instance, joining the Sant'Egidio Community project of "humanitarian corridors".

Mr. President,

The effect of migrations on my country is even more significant in the outflows. Since the end of the nineteenth century, large numbers of nationals of all ages have left San Marino in search of a better life in Italy, United States, Argentina, France, and Belgium. In some cases, these migrants have decided to stay. In other cases, they decided to return, bringing back their life experience and enriching their community of origin.



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It was not easy. Neither for those who left, nor for those who remained. San Marino was unprepared to face a phenomenon of this magnitude with its limited resources. Its people had to face great difficulties, often feeling isolated or neglected, with the sole strength of their own determination and necessity.

Mr. President,

It is also for this reason that my country knows the value of multilateralism. Thanks to multilateralism, the Republic of San Marino, like many other nations, has been able to strengthen its democratic safeguards, promote sustainable development, and make its voice heard, offering a concrete contribution to the family of nations.

Therefore, my presence today is a confirmation of our longstanding commitment to dialogue. San Marino has been active not only at the United Nations, but also in other multilateral organisations, participating in the OSCE Conference on "Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees in the Mediterranean ". In addition, to mention but the most relevant recent initiatives, my Country has contributed to the "Migrant and Refugee Fund" of the Council of Europe Development Bank.

Today the Republic of San Marino has chosen once again to make its contribution, celebrating with you the victory of multilateralism over the challenge posed by irregular migration. I confirm San Marino solid intention not to shirk the collective responsibilities we are called upon to meet, despite the political challenges.



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The Republic of San Marino solemnly decides that its People and Institutions firmly intend, beyond fears and difficulties, to contribute to a safe, orderly and regular migration.

Thank you for your attention.