

Check against delivery

Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Migration
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Marakesh, Morocco

**STATEMENT by Mr. ZORAN DJORDJEVIĆ
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OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Secretary General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to address you on **behalf** of the Serbian Government. First, I would like to join the previous speakers in thanking the Secretary General for organizing this Conference, which is very important for finding **sustainable** solutions for the migration issue.

Refugee and migrant situation is complex, and it calls for more attention, effectiveness, and solidarity of all relevant actors both in providing emergency humanitarian assistance for refugees and migrants in the current crisis, and in reaching permanent solutions for persons in prolong displacement.

The phenomenon of migrations still represents a pressing issue, posing unique humanitarian, political and social challenge. Unfortunately, recent developments indicate that although the crisis appeared to be decreased, it is still far from over. Many of our countries are still faced with challenges from migration crisis. There is no doubt that in dealing with this major issue requires awareness of the root causes underlying the movement of population, as well.

Since this is not a problem within geographic limit but a phenomenon of global scale, solutions should be found both on regional and on the global level. We must not lose sight of the fact that the huge influx of refugees and migrants to the countries of Europe, within a short space of time, has made the local communities

along the migration route incapable of quickly absorbing this inflow, giving at the same time rise to increased xenophobia of migrants in many countries.

In this regard, a crucial step forward has been taken at the high-level meeting held in New York, on 19 September 2016. Faced with the biggest migration of people since the World War II, 193 UN Member States have adopted a political declaration on refugees and migrants, the so-called "New York Declaration", expressing willingness to challenge the problem and provide solutions for those in need. It broke new ground as the planned expression of international **engagement** and makes the way forward towards two global compacts. Consultations in New York and Geneva are concrete steps taken towards achieving agreements on **sustainable** solutions for refugees and migrant situation.

Both of these two compacts are equally important, since refugees and migrants nevertheless in different status are usually faced with similar challenges on their often dangerous and uncertain road to safety and better life opportunities. Serbia welcomes the adoption of the New York Declaration, convinced that only through coordinated action and joint efforts, both by international organizations and all UN Member States, as well as other important stakeholders, the sustainable way forward at the global level could be reached, since the phenomenon has no geographic limits but is of global scale.

Ever since the massive influx of refugees and migrants through the so-called Western Balkan Route reached its peak in 2015 up until today, Serbia as a transit country has been investing a lot of efforts, human and financial resources in managing refugee-migration crisis. Serbian Government has demonstrated responsibility to provide adequate reception, assistance in food and medication, temporary accommodation facilities, healthcare and information about asylum procedures for all those in need transiting through our country. We are particularly proud of the humane approach of the people of our country towards refugees and migrants arriving from Middle East, Asia and Africa, bearing in mind that the process of integration of more than 300,000 former refugees from the territory of the former Yugoslavia is still ongoing, and more than 200,000 internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija are still in need for permanent solutions.

We are all aware that there are no simple solutions for the refugee and migrant issues. One of the crucial challenges today is how to prevent irregular migration,

smuggling of people and human trafficking and explore ways to foster regular migrations to the benefit of both countries of origin and destination. This is a task we should look at from the perspective of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

We must jointly develop clear, humane, and sustainable solutions, which are providing for basic human dignity and protection of migrants and safeguarding the human rights of all, but at the same time, guaranteeing security of the recipient countries. It is very important to promote coherent regional approaches to the complex and divisive issue of migration, thus paving the way towards shared concepts, common policies and coordinated action

UNHCR, IOM and other international partners can, as always, count on Serbia's support, cooperation and active approach in the achievement of these goals.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, I believe that today's event will make a progress in achieving much needed: clear, humane and sustainable solution for the migration issue.

I thank you for your attention.