

High Level Side Event

70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Strengthening cooperation on migration and refugee movements in the perspective of the new development agenda

30 September 2015, 3 to 5 p.m., Conference Room 4

The Czech Republic strongly supports transformative aspects of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, including coherent and comprehensive responses to migration and mobility.

It is important to strengthen positive links between migration and development and create new channels and instruments for regular migration, while targeting the dangerous and undignified smuggling and trafficking of people.

The number of refugees and internally displaced people worldwide is now the highest since the 2nd World War; no doubt humanitarian actors are overwhelmed. The Czech Republic as a donor both bilaterally and within the EU supports all efforts to strengthen cooperation among humanitarian organizations in order to make the aid as efficient as possible.

In relation to the conflict-affected countries and regions, the Czech Republic focuses on the comprehensive and sustainable assistance to the IDPs, refugees and their host communities, in cooperation with the relevant UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs.

The Czech Republic recognizes that only a mutually agreed joint European solution will bring the current influx of migrants to Europe under control. This solution is now in sight, after the extraordinary European Council on 23 September. However, the problem requires attention of wider international community due to its magnitude as well as root causes. Particularly, the Arab countries in the Gulf region should be more involved: we call on these countries to take on more responsibility and provide more assistance to the frontline states, as well as receive more asylum seekers on their territories. We urge the League of

Arab States to intensify collaboration among its members and let those countries that have the capacities help the ones in need.

The Czech Republic stands ready to provide bilateral assistance, as well as to contribute to multilateral efforts to help the most effected countries of origin and transit. For starters, we have pledged to contribute 1 million euro to the World Food Programme.

Likewise, our new Strategy of migration policy builds on a principle of solidarity. In the past, our country has proved to be able not only to accept significant numbers of refugees from conflict regions (such as former Yugoslavia), but also to integrate them very well.

The Czech Republic believes that effective sustainable solution is not possible without a constructive focus on the root causes of forced migration. That is why we welcome all efforts to fostering peace and human security and eradicating extreme poverty while supporting economic development and good governance.