



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

BY

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to the United Nations

**AT THE
HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

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**Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

With almost 200 million international migrants in the world and trends which indicate that these numbers will grow even further in the future, will expand more and will become more global than they currently are, Slovenia believes it is necessary to enhance dialogue and cooperation between governments, in order to act in a more coherent way. We are convinced that special attention must be paid to the protection of human rights and the guaranteeing of security. These are two essential elements in the area of the prevention of illegal migratory flows, and particularly in combating trafficking in human beings.

In this regard greater emphasis should be put on the new concept of human security, which would shift the focus from the security policies mainly concerned with the protection of state territories to people, regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, citizenship or other distinguishing characteristics.

Migration when managed effectively can have a substantially positive impact on both the country of destination and the country of origin, as well as on the migrants themselves. We therefore underline the need for a balanced, global, coherent and comprehensive approach, in cooperation with third countries, harnessing the benefits of regular migration, and working on policies to address irregular migration.

One of the most important elements to holistic migration policies is also the link between migration and development. In this regard, more consideration should be given to both how migration issues can be integrated into poverty reduction strategies (PRSPs) and other national development strategies of the partner countries, and to how donors can support partners' priorities within this context. This would include i.a. policy responses to brain drain and the answer to the question on how to maximise the impact of remittances, which remain private funds and should not be seen as a replacement of official development assistance.

Slovenia also recognises the need for concrete actions in order to deal efficiently with trafficking in human beings and smuggling of immigrants, and other acute problems. It is becoming evident that while illegal migratory flows and the accompanying criminal activity can be limited by repressive measures and policing operations, they cannot be entirely curbed nor prevented in the long term.

On the other hand, numerous organised criminal gangs take advantage of the hardships of migrants, they generate profits, subject people to a relationship of slavery and force them into criminal activity. People become victims of the greed of others and are often entirely unprotected, in particular the most vulnerable groups, such as women and children.

The fight against human trafficking and smuggling of immigrants is central to eradicate forced and bonded labour as well as organized crime. Due to its specific nature and the conscious violation of basic human rights of the victims, in particular trafficking in human beings is becoming one of the most important challenges at the global level.

The prevention and suppression of human trafficking calls for numerous and various measures: prevention, victim's assistance and protection, criminalisation of trafficking activities, awareness rising programs, etc. Lastly and most importantly, there is a need to eliminate the root causes of trafficking (poverty, social alienation and exclusion, the discrimination of women and children, a lack of equal opportunities) and to reduce the high demand in the destination countries.

Important legal instruments have been adopted at the international level intended for the prevention of human trafficking, however they have not yet been fully implemented everywhere. We call on the member states to speed up the process of the ratification of the international instruments concerned in order for necessary measures to be implemented in practice.

Slovenia welcomes the purposes and goals of the High-level Dialogue in the search for sustainable solutions to real problems with the aim of improving the relation between development benefits and the negative consequences of international migrations. This is a long process, which requires the consistent implementation of measures at the global level.

We believe that High level dialogue can make a significant contribution to helping the participating countries and organisations in making migration work better for the development in promoting cooperative dialogue and fresh approaches, enrich the overall discourse about international migration, improve both bilateral and multilateral cooperation, especially within the UN, and develop more effective migration policies.