

IOM International Dialogue on Migration

NY, 26 March 2018

Joint approaches to Migration

- Migration is an undeniable reality and a growing phenomenon in today's globalized world. **It must be seen as the New Normal!**
- And not only that, but also as a challenge and an opportunity for countries, communities and migrants alike.
- While migration is often driven by poverty, a lack of opportunities, economic and social inequality, conflict and the effects of climate change, it also presents a host of new opportunities, in addition to creating wealth and enhancing wellbeing, for both migrants and host communities. And this latter point is what we need to stress, collectively.
- Given that migration is inextricably linked to development, it was right to recognise its importance within the framework of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
- The link between migration and development cannot be ignored, and it must be understood, not only for us to better address the root causes of migration and the challenges associated with irregular migration, but also **to better harness the benefits deriving from safe, orderly and regular migration and human mobility**. This is an extremely important aspect for the social and political consensus that we need in order to deal with migrations.
- Against this backdrop, and considering the complex and unpredictable nature of migratory movements, and the global impacts they produce, it

is now more crucial than ever that our multilateral system responds in an effective and efficient way.

- Strengthening international cooperation on these issues is thus vital, not only to help establish clear and sustainable regular migration routes, but also to tackle irregular migration, and in particular to combat the scourge of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Only with increased international cooperation and mutually beneficial partnerships will it be possible to develop these two complementary avenues.
- We should therefore stress that no one country, alone, can achieve the goal of safe, orderly and regular migration that ensures respect for the human rights of migrants and responds efficiently to the impacts generated in the societies of origin, transit and destination.
- The successful governance of migratory movements also depends on a relationship of trust between all the States involved in these movements or affected by them. This will form the basis for international cooperation. At the same time, there must be guarantees of security and safety for all, both the migrants themselves and their families, and the host communities.
- An all-government approach and the engagement of civil society, namely NGOs and the private sector, is thus instrumental to the positive and mutually beneficial integration of migrants in their host communities.
- The 2016 New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants and the on-going negotiation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration provide a unique opportunity to strengthen international cooperation in this area, and also to develop mechanisms, practices and principles of international cooperation which are consistent with the values

enshrined in the UN Charter and with its three fundamental pillars: Peace and Security, Human Rights and Development.

- And at this defining moment, the current multilateral debate in the UN and the efforts to address the challenges of migration are indeed a rare opportunity to forge a new global governance framework in this area.
- It is, therefore, timely that this International Dialogue on Migration is taking place in between rounds of negotiations of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. We hope that what we have been and will be discussing in this forum can provide valuable input to those negotiations.
- The adoption of the Global Compact should be one of our collective priorities, and Portugal is ready to contribute to its negotiation.
- Portugal considers the zero draft of the Global Compact as a good basis for discussion, reflecting many of the proposals contained in the report of the UN Secretary-General, but a lot of work still has to be done if we want to achieve a balanced and ambitious outcome.
- One of the things that we would like to see strengthened, and better reflected in the text of the draft, is the leading and coordinating role of the IOM in both the implementation and the follow-up and review of the Global Compact.
- The IOM is a crucial player in the emerging global governance framework for migration. Portugal therefore agrees that the IOM should take a leading role within the United Nations to coordinate the various international responses to migration.

- Over the centuries Portugal has built itself as a country from which migrants both depart and arrive. As a result of this experience, my country is proud to adopt and implement migration and integration policies based on best practices, and focused on integrating migrants and promoting social cohesion with respect for diversity.
- Consequently, migratory issues are, fortunately, not a source of social or political division in Portugal, but rather a symbol of solidarity, strength and development.
- In fact, in the context of the initiatives put forward at European level to respond to the mass influx of migrants and refugees arriving via the Mediterranean Sea, and bearing in mind the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility by which my country abides, Portugal ranks highly as one of the host countries most committed to relocating migrants in need of international protection.
- Based on this experience, we do recognise the clear benefits of regular migration, and we stress that migration, when well-governed, can benefit countries and communities and the migrants themselves.
- Furthermore, our experience also tells us that migration must be addressed collectively and through active cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination.
- If I may, I would like to finish by once again stressing that only with joint approaches to migration, based on cooperation, trust and solidarity between all countries, will we be able to tackle irregular migration and reap the benefits of regular human mobility, and also ensure respect for international human rights law and standards, thus safeguarding the dignity and integrity of migrants.

