

Strengthening international cooperation on governance of migration towards the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration 2018

- Italy is at the center of the current migration crisis in Europe. The Central Mediterranean is, in fact, the main route migrants from sub-saharian Africa are following trying to reach Europe.
- Since 2013, more than 500.000 migrants managed to reach the Italian shores; in the same period, more than 15.000 people died during the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean sea. Looking at this numbers we can rightly call the Central Mediterranean situation an emergency.
- During the last three years Italy responded to this emergency with a series of policies and initiatives aimed at addressing the crisis at the national and European level with the ultimate aim of saving migrants lives and provide them with new opportunities.
- Italy is trying to making the most of this experience, translating it into policy proposals in the main regional and global discussion forums. In order to improve migration governance, our idea is to shift the focus on human mobility from an emergency approach to an encompassing and long-term one, turning massive irregular migration flows into predictable and manageable migration channels..
- Our approach is based on two main principles: the principle of shared responsibilities in managing migration flows and the principle of partnerships among countries of origin, transit and destination, in order to tackle the root causes of migration.
- This year, Italy is hosting the G7 Summit in Taormina, and migration is, of course, a priority of the Italian Presidency's agenda. In the preparatory talks of the summit, we are carrying on our vision by developing a set of tools to address the migration phenomenon at the global level.

- The strategy that we foresaw is a comprehensive one: it takes into account the emerging attitude of public opinion, linked to the sense of insecurity of our citizens, and called for a better border' management; but it also takes into account the necessity of changing the narrative about migration, valuing its positive aspects and valuing the contribution of migrants to a diverse and thriving society.
- I truly believe that in managing large movement of people solidarity AND security can be assured jointly, if we really apply the principle of shared responsibility among Countries of origin, transit and destination.
- It is, in fact, an international responsibility of Countries of origin to protect their citizens and accept their readmission of irregular migrants; it is a responsibility of Countries of transit to control their borders; it is a responsibility of Countries of destination to guarantee international protections to those in need.
- We can translate into concrete measures this kind of responsibility only if we build a true partnership among all Countries along the migration chain. In order to do so, we have to launch, as Italy and the European Union are already doing with African Countries, a true and consistent dialogue with Countries of origin and transit, to take into account their point of view, to share their worries and to imagine together a solution that can be favorable for all.
- But we also have to rebuild the trust of our people, we have to guarantee their security and to fight the negative narrative that looks at migration only as a threat. What is dangerous, for migrants in the first place, is a chaotic and not regulated migration.
- So we have to transform this unmanaged and dangerous movement in an orderly way. In order to do so, we are proposing three objectives: investing, in Countries of origin and transit to tackle the root causes of migration; protecting the most vulnerable among migrants, as women and children especially unaccompanied minors, during their journey; valuing the positive aspects of migration in destination countries.

- I would like to bring you some concrete examples of what we are doing, to demonstrate that shared responsibility and partnership are not just empty slogans, but fruitful tools to manage migration.
- Thanks also to the IOM, that is hosting us here today, we are investing in Niger, the main transit country along the African route, trying to help the Country in implementing its own migration policy. Together with the European Union, we support IOM activities to assist migrants stranded in Niger; to help them recover, to give them basic aid, and to grant them a dignified return home, if they wish, through a reintegration package intended also for their community of origin. As Ambassador Swing pointed out in a recent discussion with our Ministry regarding our financial contribution to this IOM initiatives, “We are not talking about cost here, those are investments”
- As for protection, I am proud to underline that very recently the Italian Parliament passed a bill on unaccompanied minors which is probably the first of its kind in the world. It provides targeted assistance and recovery measures for unaccompanied children, regardless of their juridical status, in order to grant them legal protection, and provide them with healthcare and education services. Again here, you are translating into practice a principle of the best interest of the child: we are practically stating that a child is a child, before being a migrant or a refugee.
- Finally, as of valuing the contribution of migrants to hosting societies, Italy, with an ageing population and a low birth rate, is well aware of the contribution of migrants to the growth of its society. According to a recent study immigrant workers in Italy contribute to the payment of more than 18 billion euro of taxes, the equivalent of 640.000 pensions, while producing a GDP contribution of more than 127 billion, that is 8,8% of the country total GDP, against an immigrant population of 8,3% of the total.
- In 1955, on this very day, Albert Einstein died in Princeton, New Jersey. He once said that he was “by makeup a human being and only a human being, without any special attachment to any state or nation”. I can’t think of a better example of a contribution to human knowledge coming from a

migrant, a contribution that he would have never been able to realize without crossing a border.