

**Third informal thematic session
(19-20 June 2017)**

Statement of the Slovak Republic

Panel 1: International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

Recognising the importance of the current topic of “international cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions”, we would like to particularly highlight the importance of strengthening evidence-based approach to migration; an approach based on reliable and unbiased data and analysis.

In this spirit, Slovakia supports science- and research-based approach to migration by collaborating with UNESCO’s programme: Management of Social Transformations - MOST. This intergovernmental programme has developed an initiative on the background causes, processes and social implications of migration aimed at linking research with policymaking, which is one of the current priorities of this programme. Slovakia has been very active in promoting the MOST initiative on migration through various diplomatic channels.

The Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union in conjunction with MOST, organised a high-level meeting in Brussels in November 2016, focusing on improved understanding of the migration-development nexus. On the basis of a review of a wide range of existing research, the meeting pointed to six main conclusions, each of which has both analytical and policy dimensions.

Further to these activities, Germany and Slovakia together with the UNESCO-MOST initiated one of the seven side-events of the coming GFMD summit in Berlin. This event – which Ambassador Swing, IOM Director General, kindly volunteered to moderate - should address a growing need for more evidence-based policy making and long-term planning, as opposed to an ad hoc and reactive stance. The event takes place on June 29 in the evening and both German and Slovak delegations would like to cordially invite the representatives of your countries to contribute to its success.

Moreover, Slovakia together with Turkey also convenes a MOST panel on migration in the framework of the World Humanities Conference, taking place in Belgium in August 2017, which aims at bringing social science closer to the core of global development agenda.

To conclude, we believe that the future Global compact should recognise the importance of, and represent the paradigm shift towards more evidence-based migration policies, with particular focus on better understanding the drivers of migration, as well as it should allow for increased synergies and coordination of data sources, collection and analysis. In this context, we highly appreciate and support the role of the International Organisation for Migration as the lead agency on migration within the UN system, and in accordance with the UNGA modalities resolution, we underline the crucial role of IOM’s expertise in the lead up to the adoption of the global compact.