



**Third informal thematic session on International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration  
Geneva, 19-20 June 2017 –  
Intervention by Slovenia**

To begin with Slovenia would like to align itself with the statement made by the EU delegation.

Slovenia welcomes the session devoted to international cooperation and governance of migration. In a globalised world, it is necessary to create an effective international cooperation focused on migration, and consequently to strengthen the existing regional models of cooperation. In light of this, the adoption of the New York declaration for refugees and migrants of September 2016 is of extreme importance.

Slovenia strongly believes that any cooperation needs to be built on the respect of human rights and human dignity. Moreover much more attention should be given to the tackling of the root causes of irregular migration.

Every country has the right to control its borders, which also means it should ensure border control procedures in accordance with applicable obligations under international law, including international human rights and international refugee law, in particular the principle of non-refoulement as established by the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Slovenia believes that better cooperation and reinforcement of international border management and control would be necessary to effectively combat the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking and to prevent irregular migration flows. The international community should also better cooperate in the field of capacity building and assist the countries in need of appropriate capacities.

It is important to underline that every State has a sovereign right to determine whom to admit to its territory and under what conditions, but it should be also clear that every State has the obligation to accept the return and readmission of their nationals. The return and readmission procedures make up for an important part of international cooperation in the field of migration.

Slovenia is convinced that effective return and readmission solutions can only be achieved through dialogue between the countries of origin and destination. Currently, more needs to be done to strengthen this cooperation. Slovenia would like to emphasise the role of the international organisations, namely the International Organisation for Migration, in promoting and implementing sustainable return and reintegration.

In Slovenia, we are aware of the importance of social and economic inclusion of migrants who are legally staying in Slovenia. Considerable effort goes into education of migrant children. Besides classes, the government also covers other school-related costs, such as textbooks, out-of-class activities in sports, culture. Adult third country nationals can attend a special integration programme, consisting of a Slovenian language course which is combined with the basics of Slovenian culture, history and Constitution.

Slovenia once again reaffirms its support for the third thematic session of the Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. We strongly believe that these activities will strengthen the respect for human rights, especially for vulnerable groups, make global policy more coherent and enhance partnership cooperation.