



“A Shared Responsibility for a Common Goal: Solidarity and Security”

Statement by the Chair

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation and other representatives from Algeria, Bulgaria, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Italy, Libya, Malta, The Netherlands, Niger, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia, the EEAS, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) met in Rome on 6 February 2018 to participate in the second edition of the Ministerial Conference “A Shared Responsibility for a Common Goal: Solidarity and Security”.

The meeting allowed the participants **to take stock of the results achieved since the first Ministerial Conference held on 6 July 2017** and **to further strengthen the cooperation in the following areas**: fight against human trafficking, smuggling and exploitation; protection of human rights of migrants and asylum seekers; development of a shared and integrated approach in managing migration flows in the Central Mediterranean Route.

Building on the Declaration adopted on 6 July 2017, the participants reinforced their commitment to the principles enshrined therein and **confirmed their vision on the need to combine solidarity and security** in combatting traffickers. They also stressed the paramount importance to fully **guarantee the respect for human rights of people on the move**.

The participants agreed to carry on their **mutual cooperation** to promote, **together with IOM and UNHCR**, initiatives aimed at **supporting host communities** and local Authorities, at **mitigating the conditions of migrants** in Transit Countries and at **fighting human traffics and smuggling** in its multi-dimensional nature. In this regard, participants acknowledged the initiatives taken during the Italian presidency of the UN Security Council in November 2017, including the adoption of Res 2388 on the fight against the trafficking in persons, which

reinforces UN action and the cooperation among States, focusing on the special needs of the victims, especially those of women and children, including unaccompanied minors.

Concerning Libya, participants acknowledged the **progress made in fighting human trafficking**, also thanks to capacity building initiatives implemented in favor of the Libyan Coast Guard, and stressed the need for **further engagement to enhance the capacity of Libyan authorities** to better control land and sea borders and to tackle the irregular flows of migrants. The participants reiterated the firm commitment to assist Libyan central and local Authorities in **improving migrants' living conditions in full respect for their human rights**. In this regard, the participants acknowledged the **progress achieved in ensuring access by UNHCR and IOM to detention centers**, in increasing **medical assistance** for migrants and refugees, in relocating the most vulnerable **asylum seekers** through UNHCR and in implementing more than 19.000 assisted **voluntary returns** in 2017 with the assistance of the IOM.

The discussion of the second edition of the Conference focused on the following **three areas**:

1. **Progress made in the implementation** of the principles and lines of actions enshrined in the **Declaration of 6 July 2017, among which** the positive results obtained in terms of reduction of smuggling through the Central Mediterranean route and in protecting migrants and refugees. The **increase of assisted voluntary returns** to countries of origin and related **reintegration assistance, as well as first relocations of the most vulnerable asylum seekers** to European countries and to other hosting countries, including African ones, were also noted;
2. The Conference provided the opportunity to further **reaffirm the conclusions reached at the European Union – African Union Summit held in Abidjan on 29-30 November 2017** and in particular the commitment to address the root causes of irregular migration, the need to prevent hazardous journeys and save lives by countering migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings and deterring irregular migration, the priority of voluntary returns and the commitment to provide assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons;
3. The Participants also discussed the need to **promote the positive role of African countries of transit in the negotiations of the Global Compacts**, to be adopted in 2018, for safe, orderly and regular migrations and on refugees, in order to see reflected in the final text the principles of **shared responsibility and solidarity**, the nexus between **migration and development**, the guarantee of the **protection** of human rights of migrants and refugees,

the need to **balance the individual right to human mobility** with the **right of States to determine criteria for the admission of foreign nationals**, and the need to **promote legal pathways** for regular migration.

Migration has been and will remain a fundamental part of human development. To successfully face the challenges posed by migration, bearing in mind the positive aspects of a safe and orderly human mobility, there is a **need to shift the focus from an approach centered on the management of the emergency to a long-term strategy**. This is not a challenge for few countries alone: managing migration flows continues to require a **strong partnership among Countries of origin, transit and destination**.

The participants also expressed their concern for the return of **Foreign Terrorist Fighters; a matter that** requires strengthened cooperation in order to **prevent them from exploiting the migration flows** along the Central Mediterranean Route.

While much more still needs to be done, the Second Edition of today's Conference "A Shared Responsibility for a Common Goal: Solidarity and Security" gave a valuable contribution to strengthen the existing partnership and **to chart the way forward for new achievements** in addressing the challenge posed by irregular migrations.