

Third thematic consultations on the Global Compact on Migrations III Panel discussion, 20 June 2017

Statement by Montenegro

Thank you Mr. President.

We appreciate this opportunity to present our views on how the issue of return, readmission, integration and reintegration of migrants could be reflected in the Global Compact on migrations.

The Global Compact is an opportunity to set up a basis for cooperation of states when it comes to the issue of the return and readmission of their nationals who do not have the right to stay on other states' territory, while ensuring full protection of their human rights. We believe that readmission agreements play an important role in that regard, as they stipulate administrative and operational obligations of contracting parties, with a view to facilitate more human and organized return or transit of persons not meeting or having ceased meeting conditions for entrance, presence or residence on the territory of a state requesting their re-admission. In order to prevent illegal migrations, Montenegro and the EU have signed a readmission agreement, thus agreeing to re-accept all the citizens who are found to be present illegally on the territory of Montenegro or of some of the EU states. Montenegro has also concluded individual re-admission agreements with a number of neighbouring and other states.

The Global Compact should recognize the responsibility of a state for legal immigrations and for regulating the issue of naturalization and integration of migrants. Montenegro has, by means of the proposal of the new Law on International and Temporary Protection of Foreign Nationals, introduced a new context which encourages a successful integration of foreign nationals into receptive Montenegrin society. Fundamental human rights are guaranteed to every person on the territory of Montenegro, regardless of their legal connections with the country, which means that the full protection of human, civil, economic, social, cultural and other rights is guaranteed to foreigners. Employment and work permits for foreigners along with providing for the human rights arising from this status, are also thoroughly addressed by relevant law.

In order to thoroughly deal with these issues, Montenegro has set up two directorates within the Ministry of Interior: Directorate for Foreigners, Migrations and Re-admission and Directorate for Asylum. In February 2017 the Government has adopted a Strategy for integrated migration governance 2017-2020, in addition to Strategy of reintegration of people returned in accordance with the readmission agreements 2016-2020. We closely cooperate with the EU member states in the area of visa issuing, border control, asylum and migrations, including through existing regional initiatives, such as MARRI, whose director is currently Montenegrin.

Thank you Mr. President.