

Speech by
Romanian State Secretary George Ciamba at the
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Romania firmly condemns the horrendous terrorist attacks which took place in Ankara on the 10th of October. In these difficult moments, our deep condolences and our solidarity go to the Turkish authorities and to the Turkish people, as well as to the families of the victims and of the wounded people. Romania fully supports Turkey's effort in combating terrorism, a phenomenon that the international community needs to fight as a priority.

On behalf of the Romanian Government, I would like to express our appreciation for Turkey's successful chairmanship of the GFMD, culminating with the organization of the 8th meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. This new opportunity is extremely valuable especially now, when the international community has to address one of the most challenging migration crisis since the World War II.

Romania appreciates the important efforts that Turkey has made in recent years with regard to the Syrian refugees, hosting an impressive number of people, and at the same time of its role as a key player with regard to the control of the flow of the irregular immigration and combating the human trafficking networks. Beyond its major contribution to hosting and assisting refugees, Turkey fulfills a key role in maintaining the regional security.

The organization of this Forum in Istanbul represents an opportunity to contribute to the search for a global comprehensive response to the current challenges determined by the massive flows of refugees and migrants, following discussions that took place at the High-Level Event on migration at UNGA 70.

The recent events in Europe have shown us once more the importance of fostering partnerships on mobility and of strengthening cooperation between all countries along the migratory routes. The overall theme of the Turkish Chairmanship (Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development) perfectly captures this imperative.

Romania welcomes the GFMD's objective to stimulate the participation of the civil society and of the private sector in the discussions which aim at identifying common action opportunities in response to the current challenges in the countries of origin for migration. Their involvement is essential in finding credible solutions and, most important, in ensuring their implementation on the ground.

We are aware that no one can expect for Turkey or other countries neighboring Syria to shoulder alone the burden of accommodating 12 million refugees. We think that increased cooperation on support of refugees and migration management is needed, starting from a comprehensive basis for further work. Strengthening the political dialogue and the cooperation between Turkey and the EU could bring added value to these efforts. In this context, I would like to reiterate the importance of irreversibly connecting Turkey to Europe, including by further advancing the negotiations for its accession to the EU.

We highly welcome the inclusion of migration into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – which Romania has supported - is an important achievement, which reflects the growing interconnection between migration and development. Especially in the current context, development instruments and policies need to contribute, in a substantial manner, to better managing the challenges determined by migration. At the same time, migration represents a driver of development in countries of origin and destination. We should therefore use this platform for inclusive dialogue created by the Global Forum to further advance the understanding on the mutually reinforcing relationship between migration and development and galvanize global action with the view to integrate migration into development planning.

We are confident in the ability of the Forum to play a constructive role in promoting consensus around the migration aspects of the UN development agenda. In this context, we would like to play a special tribute to Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, for his personal dedication to this cause.

Common challenges need common answers, as well as a coordinated, comprehensive and coherent approach. Furthermore, migration issues need a multifaceted and a comprehensive multi sectorial approach, where the various development instruments can play a very constructive role.

In this context, a coordinated approach of the international community is essential. Romania has repeatedly underlined that a comprehensive strategy oriented towards the root causes of migration is essential, based on economic, social and educational measures in countries of origin, as well as on crisis management in these countries, post-conflict stabilization, cooperation with transit countries.

Regarding the humanitarian situation, we are aware of the fact that it needs a quick reaction from us all to the benefit of most affected countries by migration. In this context, we support the strengthening of EU financial assistance to these countries.

As a concrete proof of our solidarity with these countries, Romania responded favorably to the various calls of support from the international community in order to alleviate the humanitarian

pressure, both through participation to the joint humanitarian efforts of the international community (through the World Food Programme or the UNCHR), as well as through bilateral humanitarian aid (to Jordan and Serbia).

Our discussions on how to tackle the current status of migration around the world must necessarily include the resolution of conflicts which are in direct connection with the current migratory phenomenon. In this context, the events in Syria, which lie at the root of today's unprecedented crisis, must be a priority. Romania considers that only a politically negotiated solution will lead to a lasting settlement of the conflict in Syria.