



**Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations  
New York**

**STATEMENT**

**by**

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**Plenary meeting  
Agenda 130 “Global awareness of the tragedies of irregular migrants in the  
Mediterranean basin with specific emphasis on Syrian asylum seekers”**

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*(Check against delivery)*

Mr. President, Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- At the outset, let me express my deep sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Beirut and Paris, today in Bamako. The People and the Government of Slovakia stand in firm solidarity with any country, any innocent human being who suffered from or faces life threatening environment. Violent terrorism and coward attacks are becoming, unfortunately, a part of our lives.
- But we must not surrender. Neither we must allow that individual attacks, violent actions, will fuel general hatred to those, who really are in need – majority of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons who seek help, assistance or simple safe shelter to survive conflicts, extreme poverty. To those who strive to live, to raise and educate their children in peace.
- Tragic events happening almost on a daily basis remind us how important the international cooperation aimed at sustainable and inclusive growth, peace, security and stability is. Those are crucial prerequisites for decent life for all.
- There is no doubt that terrorism and migration are clearly interlinked. State fragility and internal strife and conflicts provide breeding ground for extremism and terrorism. Internal conflicts, violent developments, terror are among main factors producing desperate humans, women, children searching for security and prospect of better lives.

Mr. President,

- I would like to express my gratitude to you for bringing this important and challenging issue devoted to global awareness of the tragedies of irregular migrants in the Mediterranean basin with specific emphasis on Syrian asylum seekers.
- Current migration crisis is unprecedented. It has many overlapping dimensions - humanitarian, social, political, economic and security. And it has also a strong potential to stir emotions on all sides.
- This is one of the most complex challenges we have to face and address jointly in cooperation and partnership between the countries of origin, transit and destination as well as with international organizations which have their irreplaceable role in these processes.
- This crisis must be met with a coherent response. Without targeting the root causes of migration we will never achieve lasting results – by those I mean - eradication of human suffering, full respect for human rights and clear perspective of return.
- There is no “quick fix” or “magic panacea” to solve the problem. Therefore we should look for sustainable solutions. To move forward in solving the issue we need, inter alia, to:
  - address and solve violent reasons for migration;
  - address core social and economic roots and causes;

- provide immediate help, show maximum solidarity with all people affected;
  - demonstrate solidarity with countries that provide refuge and facilities for refugees;
  - support programs for long term security and development conditions in affected countries/regions of origin;
  - distinguish between economic migrants and refugees forced to flee to save their lives;
  - Thoroughly and consistently fight against organised crime and illegal trafficking in order to fight criminal networks that profit from human tragedy.
  - improve coordination and coherence between all relevant stakeholders and minimize overlapping competencies and waste of resources;
- The key remedy against terrorism is in our hands. Prevention is one of the keys. We must address causes of these crises, especially violent conflicts, ideally before they are fully manifested.
  - At the centre of our efforts must be respect for commitments under international law, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, those values we should never sacrifice. This applies to both - domestic and international counter-terrorism efforts.
  - We also need to further expand and deepen the international framework, with the UN at its centre. This needs to go together with involvement of regional stakeholders, local ownership and shared responsibility. Migration needs to be addressed within national development but with international support.
  - New development agenda gives us a great tool to take collective action. It provides the opportunity to address challenges that forced millions of people to leave their homes.
  - Slovakia is strongly committed to help alleviating the plight of refugees allocating recently 2 million Euro through WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM. We intend to provide additional voluntary financial contributions amounting in 1.7 million euros through UN agencies.
  - We have also provided 3 mil. Euro to the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis for relief and recovery assistance to those affected by the conflict inside Syria and in the region (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey).
  - We have also allocated 600 000 Euro to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa within a joint Visegrad contribution in amount of 3 mil. Euro.
  - I do believe we all wish a world where migration is a choice, not a life-saving measure.
  - Thank you.