

**Final Round of Intergovernmental Negotiations
on the UN Global Compact for Migration (GCM)**

13 July 2018

**National Statement by
H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó
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Your Excellences,

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to express our appreciation and thankfulness to the Ambassadors of both Mexico and Switzerland and to your teams. We understand that you made a huge effort during the last months to put together a text, which can count on the support of most of the Member States here at the United Nations. We understand that it must not have been an easy job to harmonize the interests, approaches and opinions of more than 190 Member States here, therefore I would like to congratulate to you. Especially taking into consideration that my country was the one, who has put forward maybe the most proposals and had the most debates with you. We never took these as a personal issue of course, but we really value your open approach that you have represented during our negotiations, which were not always easy, we have to admit now.

Excellences you both know that after the United States decided to leave the process of negotiations, we have considered that as well as, based on the draft text and on its basic approach. Since we believe in multilateralism and we believe in the usefulness and necessity of dialogue, hence in discussion based on mutual respect and mutual trust, we stayed in the negotiations. I have to tell you Your Excellences, with all my respect towards you personally and towards your teams, that I have to register here that there are still some major points of disagreement, which have unfortunately been maintained in the text. That is why I would like to express our Government's view that we consider today's event as the closing of the negotiations about the draft of the global compact for migration for sure, but that does not reflect an agreement to the text from our side. If you allow me Your Excellences, I would like to emphasize a couple of points where we maintain our disagreement.

First we disagree with the basic approach, which tries to portray a context as if migration would be a fundamental human right. We do not think that it is, when we look into our national system of laws and regulations. We do not think that anyone has the right to pick a country where she or he would like to arrive as a country of destination, and in order to do so violates a series of borders.

We do not agree with two points put forward here: like an unchallengeable definition, as if migration would be by definition good for all, or as if migration would be a defining feature of our globalized world, which makes us all countries of origin, destination and transit as well - we maintain our disagreement there.

Your Excellences, you know it very well, as we have represented the approach during our negotiations that there must be a clear division with regard to illegal migrants, and illegal migration should not be encouraged in any form. That is why the approach that all migrants should get all kinds of support through the whole migration cycle, without taking into consideration the legal aspects or the legal status, this is something that we do not agree either.

And during our exchanges, Your Excellences, we put it forward very clearly that we consider it as a matter of national sovereignty that we find the answers to our challenges regarding labour market or demography on our own, and no one should put pressure on the other to think about migration as an exclusive and best answer for them.

And although my friend Miroslav [Lajčák, President of the General Assembly] - who is hopefully soon returning to be the foreign minister of our neighbouring country – put here forward that this document does not encourage migration, still, I think that there are many pull factors which remain in the text. Although I have to commend your efforts, because there were much more in the first draft and you have made a very good achievement in leaving out some of the pull factors. Still, there are quite some left here. Especially the one, which encourages us to put the illegal migrants together with those who have regular status instead of effective methodologies to send back the illegal migrants.

I come from a country, which has experienced the impacts of illegal migration in the last years. More than 400 thousand illegal migrants marched through our country just because they wanted to get to some wealthier Western European countries, and that has taught us very well that the protection of borders is an extremely important obligation of a state. If we take into consideration the protection of national borders, we should not approach it exclusively based on human rights, since this is a national security issue.

Based on all this Your Excellences and Dear Colleagues, I think that we should not concentrate only on the rights and well-being of the migrants, but we should concentrate at least as much on the existing fundamental human rights of those people, who would like to live in their own homes under safe and secure circumstances.

That is why we think that tackling the root causes and bringing help where it is most needed is extremely important. Instead of encouraging people to leave their homes, we should put more efforts in tackling the root causes and bringing help to where it is needed, as we have been doing it. Since this approach is not too much highlighted in the text, the text became biased and imbalanced in this regard. So, when the texts says that the Global Compact places individuals at its core then we think yes, it should be the case to place individuals, all individuals at its core. Those people as well, who would like to exercise their rights to have a safe and secure life in their homes.

Excellences, Dear Colleagues,

Last but not least, I would like to tell you that we establish our migration policy on a rational basis based on common sense. We do not want to see the events to be repeated, which have taken place in Hungary in 2015. Therefore, security and safety of the country and the people of ours will remain number one issue on our agenda. All those, who have today delivered nice speeches here at the beginning, are right when they say that sovereignty must be respected. That is why we keep on protecting our borders strictly and strongly of course. We make it very clear that the only way to enter our country is the legal way and we are continuing to preserve Hungary as a Hungarian country as it has been the endeavour of ours throughout history.

As my last point Your Excellences, Dear Ambassadors,

I would like to inform you that next Wednesday the Hungarian Government will put this issue on its agenda and will discuss the possibility of disassociation. I will inform you immediately after the Government's decision.

Excellences, once again I commend all of your efforts and thank you very much for your kind attention.