



**138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
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**Speech by Mirco Tomassoni, President of the San
Marino National Group to the IPU**

**"Strengthening the global regime for migrants and
refugees: the need for evidence-based policy solutions"**

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Colleagues,

As always, this meeting offers us the opportunity to share considerations and experiences on key topics of common interest and sources of concern. The management of migration has become one of the key challenges of our time as well as a humanitarian emergency at a global level.

The lack of a common strategy that enables to monitor, rule and achieve a sustainable flow of migrants and refugees, fleeing from inhuman political and economic conditions: this is a challenging theme, on which the Republic of San Marino would like to give its contribution.

Belonging to such a great international organization as the UIP allows even a small country as San Marino to make its voice heard on issues of global concern. Indeed, the origins of San Marino lie in the principles of freedom, peace and



democracy; in its history, San Marino has always been open to welcoming others and recognising the value of diversity. Moreover, the country firmly believes in cooperation, solidarity and dialogue among peoples, States and persons.

In order to maintain peace, stability and eliminate inequalities, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) - to be negotiated in the coming months - must fully comply with human rights standards. Such standards represent binding obligations that States freely entered into by signing international treaties and agreements, and stand for basic human values that should never be forgotten or ignored.

The human rights of migrants and refugees must be respected throughout the entire migration process: departure, transit and destination.

Because the IPU is responsible for the promotion of human rights, what is at stake is our global credibility and our ability to have a positive influence on Member states Parliaments, by supporting their integration policies, their fight against manipulation, populism, xenophobia, fake news and hate crime. In other words, we need to change negative perceptions by addressing what creates and feeds them. It is



also useful to promote integration activities, break down prejudices and foster mutual understanding.

Very often, within the IPU, we express disagreement and shame for the walls that continue to be built in many parts of the world. If we remain inactive, however, we risk unintentionally building the highest and most disastrous wall in the history of our civilization.

It is an invisible barrier between "us and them", a result of the injustice and faults of the present socio-economic system which, due to its anonymity and to globalization, has posed and will continue to pose great threats and dangers, not only for populations in the South of the world, but for everyone.

The International Community must help States develop these policies, so that they become able to inspire faith in a future of global justice, as envisaged by the 2030 Agenda.

By working closely together and by drawing from our various experiences, this international parliamentary assembly will surely be able to define the main guidelines for the two Agreements (GCM and GCR), which I mentioned in the introduction.

Just a few days ago, the San Marino Parliament approved a decision consistent with the suggestions of the international



community and of international bodies with respect to the refugee crisis. The decision envisages the development of small-scale projects to accommodate migrants and refugees in a number commensurate with the size of our country. The project is aimed particularly at women, children and people with disability, and involves San Marino citizens and volunteer organisations.

Therefore, I assure you of my country's commitment and collaboration.

Thank you