

STATEMENT BY MR LUCA DALL'OGGIO, PERMANENT OBSERVER
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE MIDTERM
COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2001-2010
AT THE 61ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2006.

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is committed to contribute, within its mandate and capacity, to the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Brussels' Programme of Action. In the last five years, we have devoted significant energy and resources to this goal and we have made one of our priorities to collaborate closely with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS). IOM has presented a detailed report on the Organization's contribution to the Brussels' Programme of Action, which is posted on the High Representative's Office website.

IOM is active in four out of the seven commitments defined by the Brussels' Programme, namely Commitment 2, 3, 4 and 7 in over 20 LDCs. Allow me today to briefly highlight some of the key interventions in this regard.

Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities, is one of the areas of the Brussels' Programme where IOM is more heavily involved.

First of all, the "Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA)" programme that IOM launched in 2001 is an institutional capacity building programme that aims to facilitate the transfer of vital skills and resources of the African diaspora to their countries of origin. MIDA offers options for reinvestment of human capital, including temporary, long-term or virtual return. Equipped with their competences, new ideas and expertise gained abroad, migrants can be a tremendous asset for the development of their countries of origin.

Second, through remittances, migrants working abroad can provide significant support to their families left behind in the source countries and contribute to the economic growth of their communities. Countries with sizeable migrant populations are increasingly taking steps to strengthen these remittance flows. IOM develop databases of diasporas that help governments better target investment opportunities for their expatriate population, and plan re-circulation opportunities to take advantage of diaspora's skills for local development.

In response to the growing importance of remittances and their development potential for LDCs, IOM, in collaboration with the Government of Benin and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing Countries - and with financial support from the Governments of Ireland and Norway, the South-South Cooperation Unit of UNDP, the World Bank and IOM - organized a two-day ministerial conference on Remittances to LDCs on 9 and 10 February 2006 in Cotonou, Benin. The event brought together over 90 participants (including several ministers) from 32 LDCs and 2 observer countries, as well as from international organizations, regional banks and civil society/diaspora organizations. The conference adopted a declaration to optimize the development benefits of remittances and mobilize support for its implementation.

When it comes to **Commitment 4: Building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs**, IOM's Employment Assistance Services (EAS) have been developed as an intervention tool to enhance employment opportunities in a specific country or region, when these have been severely affected as a result of either conflict and/or the neglect of the social and economic infrastructures. The EAS works hand-in-hand with the target beneficiaries to help them achieve gainful employment through a variety of support services, such as job screening and referral, vocational and technical training linked job placement services, and integrated support to the creation and development of micro and small enterprises through the enhancement of specialized business development services.

Finally, **Commitment 7: Mobilizing financial resources**, stresses a crucial point which is the inclusion of migration in the PRSPs. The inter-linkages between migration and development are complex and can exacerbate existing challenges to achieving national and international development goals. But migration can also yield considerable benefits for the development of the countries of origin. In order to enhance such benefits, countries of origin need to consider mainstreaming policies that link migration and development into their national planning and

development strategies. At the same time, integrating migration issues coherently into national development strategies allows to more effectively address challenges arising out of migration for national development. The opportunity created by PRSPs' current review has led IOM to address a note to many African Heads of States and Governments and development partners requesting the integration of migration into PRSPs and national development plans of actions.

Madam President,

This meeting provides us with an excellent opportunity to evaluate and further reinforce our important engagement to advance the development of the poorest countries and contribute to ending the LDCs' continued marginalization.

In closing, we also acknowledge the tireless efforts of the UN High Representative for Least developed Countries and his team at UN-OHRLLS and would like to express our sincere appreciation for their dedication and inclusiveness in their collaboration with all concerned organizations.

Thank you Madam President.