



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY MR. CARLOS ZAMORA, HEAD OF THE  
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, AT THE PLENARY  
MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT.**

**New York, 15 September 2006.**

**Madam President:**

Allow me to commend you for your election as President of the General Assembly and express Cuba's will and commitment to continue working constructively during your presidency, as well as our delegation's full support of your works.

My delegation would like to join South Africa's statement on behalf of the G-77 and China, and at the same time we would like to express some considerations on this issue, which is so important for the developing countries.

**Madam President:**

The present phenomenon of International Migration is a consequence of the current world order imposed by the developed world. The increasing gap between the rich countries and the huge underdeveloped and poor areas of the planet are a consequence of the neoliberal globalization. Millions of human beings see no other alternative for their future than to migrate towards the developed economies of the First World.

Modifying this landscape is a challenge that pertains to us all, for its consequences affect both rich and poor countries.

It is critical to address the current phenomenon of migration and it is appropriate to include it in the development policies. Without a responsible commitment to it and if the current situation of inequality and inequity continue, the structural causes that condition the migration flows of our times will continue to grow, thus aggravating the situation.

Keeping the status quo will only increase the pressure of masses of migrants coming from impoverished areas of the planet besieging the borders of the developed world.

This flood will not be stopped by criminalizing migration, building up massive walls at the borders or creating administrative and even military barriers.

We cannot settle for approaches aimed at managing migration waves just to meet the needs of the developed world. It is essential to modify the current situation of underdevelopment and poverty in a large part of the planet so as migration meets the true needs and aspirations of the persons who wish to settle in another country. Development is the only way to balance the migration waves in the future world.

The planet's natural resources are exploited for the benefit of the developed countries. In the current globalized economy, the exploitation of human resources is ever increasing. An unjust migration international order has been created to serve the richest and most powerful countries, which receive skilled labor, steal the best brains and talents, and in return they want our countries to become the guards of their borders to stop irregular migration.

As an example we can mention that in Latin America we train every year 1.2 billion university graduates each costing no less than 20 000 dollars. 240 000 of them, that is 20%, are drained to work and do research in the rich nations which offer them conditions that our impoverished nations cannot guarantee them and we receive no compensation whatsoever.

They sell us, as the panacea for development, remittances that are the fruit of the migrants sacrifice, while increasingly reducing commitments and official development assistance.

It is time to rectify. It is necessary to have a sincere cooperation to contribute to the development of the vast poor areas of the planet. Without a steadfast political will it is not possible to solve the problem. However, today's facts put into question the existence of that will by the industrialized world.

The policy of blockade and aggression against my country is an example of it. The so-called "Cuban Adjustment Act", known in Cuba as the "Assassin Act", allows any Cuban who arrives in US territory to have residence, no matter the means and procedures used. This act has encouraged illegal migration and alien

smuggling. That contradicts the bilateral migration agreement, which establishes the obligation for a legal, secure and orderly migration. Moreover, we cannot see a will by the US authorities to persecute and punish the organized crime that benefits from alien smuggling.

On the other hand, the Cubans residents in the United States are the only group of migrants that is limited for visiting and helping their relatives in their country of origin, as a result of the regulations issued by the host country. This situation has become crueler from the measures adopted by the US government in May 2004, by which the possibilities to travel and remittances were further restricted, from an absurd and flimsy limitation of the concept of family. Today, a son can only visit his mother once every three years, even if she is about to die.

Madam President:

Another example of the lack of will in the cooperation for development is the increasing and unsustainable military expenditures. How is it justified to spend ever huge resources in developing increasingly deadly and sophisticated armaments, which the current wars prove to be aimed precisely at the poor countries and cause important persons displacements?

The reduction of military expenditures and its investment in development would be a demonstration of true will to address the issue of development and contribute to modify the current situation.

How can the migrant generating countries be asked to contribute to control the waves and allow the plundering of their human resources, if each of those countries has to pay an external debt that the more it is paid the more it grows?

The developed world has received from migrants a substantive contribution to their current standard of living, while migrants are the victims of economic, cultural and social discrimination. We can assert that the developed world has contracted a debt with the migrants for these contributions. A way to pay it could be to cancel the external debt of the source countries.

Madam President:

The walls and barriers being built up today can hold up migration but do not solve the causes by which millions of human beings migrate and will continue to migrate.

If from this dialogue more awareness is raised to seek solutions that contribute to change the structural causes of international migration, the Secretary General's call is worthy. If we only limit to formulas to manage the migration wave we will postpone the coming crisis at the most. The beneficiaries of the current world order should reflect if not with generosity, at least with intelligence and common sense.

The time for solutions is pressing. It is better to attain them among all through cooperation.

Thank you very much.