



# ECUADOR

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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## **STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR CARLOS LOPEZ DAMM, UNDERSECRETARY FOR MIGRATORY ISSUES**

### **High-Level Dialogue on Migration and development New York, 14-15 September 2006**

Madam Chairperson,  
Delegates,

Ecuador is one of a small number of countries that has a dual quality of recipient and sender of migrants, situation besides which there is a reception of displaced persons from other nations -different phenomenon but complementary to the one of migration- that have made it to be the first country of refuge in Latin America. This reality has made necessary the establishment of new massive economic and political policies that without cooperation from the international community -still is not enough- would not be able to be enforced.

The shared responsibility between the countries of origin and those of destination, to search solutions in the universe of the migratory issues must not disregard the role of the countries in transit, also to fortify the fight against illegal human trafficking, that moves resources superior to those of drug trafficking, and to confront the corruption that promotes it and the perverse effects of the human trafficking.

Ecuador has undertaken actions in accordance with friendly countries, international organizations, civil society and public sector, such as programs of voluntary return with the cooperation of the IOM and the signature of agreements, for instance the one signed with Spain to Regulate and Manage Migratory flows, bilateral guide experience, that guarantees a protection of Labor Law secured contracts under equal conditions with their Own citizens. without intervention of third parties and with observance of the social and labor nonnative.

At the domestic scope. the Ecuadorian Living Abroad National Plan establishes the basis for the treatment of the migratory problematic in an integral way. in such a sense that the State guarantees the rights of its citizens any where in the world and promotes their dynamic,. reincorporation to the national development. An important experience is the creation of the Working Table on Migrants for Employment that contributes to the establishment Of public policies on migration from a perspective of the rights of migrants with the participation of the civil society, international organizations and public institutions. Furthermore. on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the President approved the National Plan

of Action to fight kidnapping, illegal migration, sexual and labour exploitation and any other kind of exploitation of women, children and teenagers prostitution.

Madam Chairperson,

The most vulnerable population -women, children and seniors- faces the destruction of the family environment, it suffers the consequences of the exile and the lost of their roots: and, it is susceptible of sexual exploitation, school exclusion and work discrimination. The respect of human rights is the path to the accomplishment of the millennium objectives.

To the Ecuadorian economy, a key effect is the remittances, that has become the second source of income and, in that sense, Ecuador has direct its actions to reduce the cost of bank wires through agreements signed by the Central Bank with the participation of a big number of non official entities and always taking into account the private nature of those resources. Simultaneously, campaigns to manage the adequate employment of remittances in productive projects have been initiated. Due to the large number of migrants in developing countries, the question of remittances will become a new area of south-south cooperation.

The migrant associations in the destination countries are focal points to lead the ambitions of the citizens living abroad and should become the appropriate field to the encourage the intercultural exchange, proper mechanism for the adaptation to the environment and to spread the concept of co-development that should be displayed, essentially. in the transference of technology of the country of destination to the country of origin and of the assignment of abilities and skills of the migrant human resource, without leaving aside those projects that fortify the bonds of union with their country of origin. via the opportunities of investment in their communities.

The principle of sovereignty must not diminish the rights of the migrant, independently of their juridical condition, but it should guarantee, with tolerance, the peaceful integration of the person to the receiving society. The regularization of the migrants is an objective that benefits the origin and destinations countries and to the migrants themselves. without criminalizing the.

Madam Chairperson.

Finally, my country considers that the schemes of integration should facilitate the migration and enlarge the variable of the free transit of persons, along with the one of goods. services and capitals. These are the challenges of this dialogue: to convert the migration in a source that generates wealth and development and to achieve that migration instead of being forced becomes voluntary. In this way, we will accomplish the expectations that have brought us to this dialogue that has been initiated today and that we hope they will continue in the time through the Global Forum.

Thank you.