



KAZAKHSTAN

Statement
by
Mr. Zh. Abdiyev, Chairman of the Committee on Migration
of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the
Republic of Kazakhstan
at the plenary meeting of the High-Level Dialogue on
Migration and Development
15 September 2006, New York

**Madame President,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Migration is a phenomenon that until recently has not been given sufficient attention. Today, gradually, we begin to demonstrate awareness of the need to manage migration flows for the sake of development of both the countries of origin and the countries of destination.

In this context, it is essential to examine carefully the effects of migration on the development of States as well as the role of human beings In that process.

The community of nations should work to address the issue of migrant reintegration upon their return to their countries of origin and ensure protection of their rights.

The gender aspect of migration and protection of the rights of migrant women are no less important. Admittedly, women are more vulnerable and face greater risks and discrimination during migration.

Human trafficking, slavery and sexual exploitation, regrettably, continue to be top priority items in the global agenda. In our view, poverty, unemployment and limited development opportunities constitute root causes that force people to take desperate actions and risk their lives. Measures to eradicate these vices of modern societies should necessarily include economic and social advancement of vulnerable groups as well as efforts to strengthen international and intergovernmental cooperation in that area. Protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking are key components of successful efforts to deal with this type of transnational crime. It is also important to impose more severe punishment on criminals who engage in human trafficking and to exercise stricter control over agencies that recruit people to work abroad.

Madame President,

As a country of destination, transit and origin of migrants, Kazakhstan pays special attention to addressing problems involving illegal, ethnic and labour migration and protection of the rights of migrant workers.

The migration policy of the country includes among its priorities the following:

- Liberalization of the migration regime along with protection of the rights and freedoms on the basis of the rule of law and strict compliance with norms of international law;
- Creation of conditions for the return of ethnic Kazakhs (*oralmans*) to their native land;
- Use of external labour migration to attract highly-skilled workers.

The Government of Kazakhstan is enhancing the national migration legislation and implementing a national migration policy programme. Work is under way to develop a new concept of its migration policy that would incorporate international best practices adapted to our conditions.

Kazakhstan is one of the few countries that consistently pursue ethnic migration policies. Since gaining its independence, the country has received more than 530,000 ethnic Kazakhs.

This year, the Government of our country, for the first time ever among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, is carrying out a pilot campaign to legalize illegal migrant workers. That action has allowed migrant workers to register with local migration agencies.

An Interdepartmental Working Group to Develop and Implement Migration Policies composed of representatives of International Migration Organization (IMO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been functioning since February of 2006.

An Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Illegal Inflows, Outflows and Trade in Human Beings was established in 2003 to promote working contacts and cooperation between government agencies in order to curb more effectively human trafficking.

Kazakhstan is party to bilateral treaties and multilateral conventions that directly or indirectly protect the rights of migrants.

Our country works closely with relevant international organizations and United Nations agencies.

Madame President,

Kazakhstan is hopeful that this High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will contribute, in a significant way, to the identification of trends in international migration and its effects on development. The issues of migration penetrate all existing borders between States and play an important role in the economies of both the developing world and the industrialized countries of the West. In this context, I would like to emphasize the importance of high-level meetings on migration being held on an ongoing basis. It is imperative to study further such phenomenon as international migration.

It is important to identify methods that will allow to successfully and effectively manage migration for development. The global agenda should include among Its priority items such issues as economic growth, human development, creation of decent jobs in the developing countries, gender equality, protection of the rights of migrants as well as finding solutions to the problems of labour migration, illegal migration, human trafficking, migrant health care, HIV/AIDS and the "brain drain".

We are interested in furthering our cooperation with IMO and UNHCR on the issues of refugees.

Kazakhstan believes that, if properly managed, migration can be mutually beneficial and has great potential for the development of the countries of destination, transit and origin. The problems of migration can be solved and a further open dialogue and closer cooperation at the bilateral, regional and global levels can guarantee the success of this noble endeavor.

Thank you for your attention.