



MALAWI

STATEMENT BY

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AT THE

HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT DURING THE
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to associate my delegation with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Let me also express the Government of Malawi's appreciation to the Secretary General for preparing a comprehensive and illuminating report that highlights the multidimensional aspects of migration and development. The report clearly brings out the strong linkages between migration and development and it also makes some recommendations that merit the attention and critical consideration of the international community.

Migration generates social, cultural and political consequences that must be carefully considered in order to ensure that it works for both the sending and receiving countries. We therefore, welcome this opportunity to share knowledge about how to manage movement of people.

Madam President,

The globalization of markets, information and technology as well as the liberalization of many laws affecting individual's mobility has enabled vast movements of people on a scale never seen before. And just like globalization, many of our countries have failed to take full advantage of the benefits of increased migration.

Indeed there are some undisputable advantages of international migration to the development of countries. These include the dynamic human link between cultures, economies and societies; remittances; skills and know how accumulation; transfer of technology and institutional knowledge; and, inspiring ways of thinking, both socially and politically among others. However if these are not properly harnessed a lot of us stand to loose. This is why we would like to underline the need to carefully design policies that would guarantee that international migration becomes beneficial for the development of both the countries of origin and the receiving countries.

Madam President

The report of the Secretary General states that nearly 200 million people live outside their country of birth and in 2005 they contributed nearly \$250 billion in remittances to their countries of origin. It is now widely acknowledged that remittances are one of the developmental effects of migration particularly at the individual or household level.

While celebrating the importance of remittances, we need to be reminded that countries of origin certainly lose human capital through the emigration of skilled professionals and unskilled labourers.

In the case of Malawi, for every three doctors trained, two are likely to migrate in search of better prospects. The statistics are worse for registered nurses. For the past five year Malawi has witnessed the mass exodus of nurses to work in west. This has seriously hampered delivery of health services.

Brain drain is a serious deterrent for sustainable development. Therefore, there is a serious need to work together to come up with strategies at all levels that will ensure that migration should benefit all concerned. We call for intensified international cooperation that can benefit small national economies that are most vulnerable to brain drain particularly in crucial sectors such as health and education.

Madam President,

Malawi would like to join some delegations that have spoken before to advocate for regular and constructive dialogue between countries of origin and destination in order to strengthen cooperation and to identify common solutions including the allocation of development aid for the eradication of poverty in countries of origin.

The need to explore other opportunities for involving the Diaspora in development is of critical importance. In this respect we would like to acknowledge the "Migration for Development in Africa" spearheaded by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Transfer of knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKEN) Programmes which have, in a modest way brought out the potential of the Diaspora in the development of their countries. These are programmes that must be supported and encouraged.

Further, our governments need support in the efforts to attract national expatriates to return to countries of origin directly through professional and

financial incentives and indirectly by creating legal and institutional frameworks conducive to return.

Madam President,

Malawi is supportive of the Secretary General's proposal to have a consultative forum that would provide an opportunity to discuss issues relating to international migration and development in a systematic and comprehensive way. We believe that this would ensure the retention of migration and development high on the development agenda of the international community.

Madam President,

Malawi has porous borders. As a transit country, we receive a lot of asylum seekers in genuine need. However transnational criminal elements have also taken advantage of the situation to launch their criminal activities including trafficking of women and children. These are transnational problems that require transnational solutions.

Let me conclude by emphasizing the need to place the effective protection of economic, social and cultural rights of the migrant at the centre of all migration management systems. It is my delegation's sincere hope that this dialogue will not be an end in itself

I thank you Madam President