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STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

NEW YORK, 14 SEPTEMBER, 2006

Madam President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My delegation wishes to begin by associating itself with the statement made by the distinguished Minister of Home Affairs of South Africa on behalf of the Group 77 and China.

Migrations currently have reached unprecedented high levels due to, among other factors, more facilities to travel, persistent regional and sub-regional economic disparities, natural disasters, armed conflicts, political instability, and vulnerability of national borders.

Migration is inevitable and undeterred as long as there is a deep development imbalance among countries. It should not be viewed as a problem or threat, given the fact that, if well coordinated between countries of origin and countries of destination it can bear positive effects to the economy and could create jobs and generate profits.

In Africa, and in particular in my country, Mozambique, in the labour context, migration of work force is a current and historic reality, with a direct impact on the economy and societies.

The approach to immigration problem should bear in mind the respect for human rights and dignity, regional and international cooperation and sharing of responsibilities among countries of origin, of transit and of destination.

The relationship between migration and development cannot be treated separately. On one hand, migration is a source of cultural and social enrichment of hosting countries, having far-reaching implications on employment and economic growth, as well as impacting on demand of goods and services and influencing on the demand for labour. On the other hand, however, migration can be a source of brain drain that reduces active population and qualified work force in the countries of origin.

Madam President,

In addressing the issue of the international migration and development, we acknowledge the need to build a broad political consensus on the challenges faced by the international community such as security/safety, organized crime, pressure on resources, development inequalities and imbalances, xenophobia, unemployment and legal differences.

Notwithstanding such issues, as far as SADC is concerned, free movement of persons through the territory of other countries can be an enabling factor in the regional integration process. Free movement of persons is the most visible way in which ordinary citizens benefit from the building of a community of states.

Accordingly, we are for an incremental approach to the problems related to migration, through the adoption of policies within the framework of community organizations in regional integration.

Such policies would include, among other issues, the management and monitoring of migratory, migratory labour, forced displacement, national and international security and stability, crisis prevention, management and resolution, international and regional cooperation.

On the relationship between migration and development, Mozambique subscribes the priorities set up by the African Common Position aimed at Mitigating Poverty which includes agriculture and rural development, good governance, harmonization of economic and social policies, improved protection of women, youth and persons with disabilities, institutional reforms and promotion of health sector policies.

Recognizing the importance of migrations and its consequences in the different spheres of economic, political, social and cultural life in our continent, important steps were taken at the level of governments in order to define a strategic framework for an African migration policy.

The overall objective of this strategic framework is to encourage African States to implement and integrate migration issues in their national and regional agendas through the development of national migration policies.

This framework is intended to address a multiple number of challenges that arise from the international migration which include the threats to peace and security, mechanisms for the protection of refugees and combating transnational organized crime, development of human resources to mitigate brain drain problems; promote regional integration and cooperation, promote economic growth, integration and trade through the development of infrastructures and create a conducive environment for the participation of migrants, particularly those in the diasporas, in the development of their own countries through know how transfer, savings and remittances.

Madam President,

Finally, let me state that the inputs resulting from this High Level Meeting on Migrations and Development will enable better mainstreaming of migration in the development strategies of our countries, regions, continents, through the promotion of coherent policies and coordination among different stakeholders.

I thank you.