



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Madam President,

It is a great pleasure for me to speak today before the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. I would first like to congratulate you, Madam President, on assuming the chairmanship of this important meeting. I would also like to acknowledge with thanks the Secretary-General and Peter Sutherland, the Special Representative on Migration and Development, for their work on this topic.

Madam President,

Migration echoes many of the aspects of globalization. It is indeed, a multi-dimensional, global phenomenon. With almost 200 million international emigrants in the world, it has the potential to reshape the basic structure of societies and to inject the countries of origin and destination with new ideas, input, and energy. A by-product of our interdependence, migration is a testament to our diversity.

As the Secretary-General's report states, the goals of the High-Level Dialogue are clear: to raise awareness of the development dimensions of migration, to examine the migration-development nexus, and to identify examples of best practices

In order to maximize the benefits and contain any collateral damage of migration, policies tailored to the particularities of a country are indispensable. Without them, migration can lead to an uneven distribution of benefits among societies.

The Republic of Korea has been mentioned as a noteworthy case with regard to migration policies. We have the dual status of a country of origin and a country of destination; we attract home our expatriate researchers through various policy incentives; and we successfully integrate a large number of foreign immigrants into Korean society.

Our first task in addressing this issue, then, should be to devise comprehensive and coherent migration policies in all concerned countries.

Poorly integrated immigrants are a source of segregation. social problems, tensions and security related challenges. Countries of destination should focus on formulating immigration policies that take into account the long-term objective of social integration.

Another focus of a win-win migration policy involves the introduction of a domestic system to absorb the migration benefits by the countries of origin. Remittances, at least 167 billion \$ in 2005 alone, seem to be one of the most immediate and tangible benefits of migration. Without a solid national system, however, the development potential of those huge resources cannot be realized.

In order for remittances to actually benefit the local economy, we first need to seek ways to reduce trans-national transaction fees. Second, migrant families should be provided with technical assistance to utilize remittances in order to enhance productivity and thus increase their income. Microfinance would be the most useful system for the families of migrants. Countries of origin must also put in place mechanisms to mobilize the developmental potential of skilled migrants that return home.

Madam President,

I believe that we cannot maximize the contributions of migrants to societies without enlisting the help of the business community. The business community must recognize the economic potential of migrants, not only in terms of their labour but also as contributors to the expansion of trade and tourism. Therefore, the business community should be actively involved in discussions on the development potential of immigration. Furthermore, various methods to facilitate real partnerships between governments, international organizations, and the private sector have to be considered. In this regard, the case of the Global Compact provides a worthy model of a successful international business partnership.

International cooperation on the issue of migration is also crucial. The recently established Global Migration Group (GMG) should serve to enhance coordination, cooperation and coherence between international organizations working in the field of migration and development. At the same time, we must also embrace regional efforts such as the Bali Process, among others.

Thank you.