



ESPAÑA

**INTERVENCIÓN
DE LA JEFA DE LA DELEGACIÓN DE ESPAÑA**

**D^a CONSUELO RUMÍ
SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DE INMIGRACIÓN Y EMIGRACIÓN**

DIÁLOGO DE ALTO NIVEL SOBRE MIGRACIÓN Y DESARROLLO

Nueva York, 15 de septiembre de 2006

(Cotejar con intervención definitiva)

**STATEMENT
BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

**MS. CONSUELO RUMÍ
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION**

**HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
AND DEVELOPMENT**

New York, 15 September 2006

(Check against delivery)

Mrs. President,

My delegation joins Finland in its remarks on behalf of the European Union at the start of this High Level Dialogue, in which without a doubt, one of the most important phenomena of the present time is being examined. The issue of migration and its interrelationship with development in this interdependent world is creating a growing impact in the countries of origin as well as in those of transit and destination. For that reason, the United Nations, where we are all represented, constitutes an especially appropriate and necessary framework for a joint reflection on this matter.

Mrs. President,

Spain does not forget that for centuries and until recently it was a country of emigration, and that in the past few years it has turned into one of the main immigrant receiving countries.

The Government of Spain examines the issue of migration from an open and integral perspective and promotes the planning and implementation of development strategies that could have a bearing on the root causes of migratory flows, creating opportunities and expectations of a dignified life in the countries of origin.

As a result, we consider that public migratory policies should serve to maximize the benefits of a legal and organized migration and to reduce the negative consequences inevitably associated with migrations for countries as well as for the actual migrants and their families. However, this will only be possible through dialogue and co-operation among the countries involved, from a perspective of shared responsibility in the management of migratory flows.

On another hand, an appropriate integration of immigrants to the country of destination will increase their capacity to contribute to the development of their country of origin. It must be recalled that a better integration requires an obvious effort by the countries of destination. On them lies the responsibility to design programs that welcome immigrants, provide employment and integrate them into the education system and to social life, on the basis of promoting equal treatment and non-discrimination.

We must also take into account the benefits of voluntary return programs. The establishment of mechanisms that make information available about the existence of such programs and its financing could be an incentive for the emigrant to reintegrate to its country of origin and to contribute towards its development.

With that objective, the Spanish Government will shortly approve the Strategic Plan of Citizenship and Integration 2006-2009, endowed with 2,000 million euros, that provides for numerous measures in favor of integration, structured around twelve areas of action: welcoming, education, employment, housing, social services, health, equal treatment, women, youth, participation, public awareness and co-development.

Spain is also aware that the deep causes of migration are linked to the lack of opportunities in the countries of origin. This is at the root of our current effort in the field of development co-operation, which we know all too well will only bear fruit in the medium-term. This effort will allow us to attain the 0,5% of our GDP in 2008, thus doubling in four years the Spanish contribution in this field.

Mrs. President,

The Spanish government is determined to intensify international cooperation, promoting specific measures for action within the European Union. It is important to work towards having all the countries that are involved as both emitting and receiving migrants prepare, under the principle of joint responsibility and management, those measures and programs of action that are appropriate for each case. This is the path that was begun, for example, at the Euro-African Conference on Migration, held on 18 and 11 July in Rabat, and that we understand marks the path to follow in the future. In this regard, the Ibero-American Meeting on Migration and

Development that was held in Madrid on 18 and 19 July highlighted the need to advance towards an Ibero-American mechanism for coordination within the framework of the Ibero-American Conference.

We are convinced that international migration cannot be handled unilaterally. The interests of migrants and their families, their security and welfare are at stake. Many human lives have been lost tragically and continue to be lost in the course of irregular migration processes, and many human beings suffer as a consequence of illegal trafficking. There are no immigration policies that could be credible without a decisive and major fight against clandestine immigration, which is a major burden of our time, whose victims are the immigrants themselves as well as the society that receives them. The Government of Spain's position is absolutely firm, and in that regard, during the past few years, it has been reinforcing control measures and it has developed an effective strategy against clandestine trafficking, including the pledge to extend bilateral and multilateral cooperation, which are truly indispensable in this area. International migration must be addressed in an orderly manner as an extraordinary opportunity for all with responsibilities that ought to be shared.

To that end, and with the aim of promoting a reflection and a concerted action on the phenomenon of migration at the global level, Spain has been supporting the dialogue leading to the establishment of a Global Forum of States on Migration and Development, as proposed by the Secretary General. I want at this point to express my Government's appreciation and support for the work conducted by Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary General. In the scope of said Global Forum, a mechanism could be established to follow-up the areas of action that could stem from this High Level Dialogue. For that reason, we wish that this Dialogue will bear fruit with relevant and beneficial conclusions for the international community in its action relating to international migration and development.

Thank you, Mrs. President.