



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania  
to the United Nations**

**STATEMENT BY HON. JUMA NGASONGWA, MINISTER  
FOR PLANNING, ECONOMY AND EMPOWERMENT, OF THE  
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA DURING THE GENERAL  
DEBATE OF THE HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**Madam President,**

Let me at the outset congratulate you on your election as the President of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly and assure you of my delegation full support.

We align ourselves with the statement read by the Minister for Home Affairs of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Madam President,**

The government of the United Republic of Tanzania welcomes this high level dialogue on migration and the opportunity it has provided for putting the issue of migration and development on the international agenda. We welcome the reports prepared by the Secretary General for this dialogue. The reports have provided us with a wealth of information on this issue. The recommendations contained therein provide a basis for our deliberations in this dialogue and material for further discussions. My government welcomes the recommendation in the Secretary General's report A/60/871 for a consultative forum on migration. However, more discussions are needed on the establishment of this forum and the form it should take in view of the on-going reforms of United Nations.

**Madam President,**

Migration is an old historical phenomenon with varied causes and consequences. The current rising trend of migration can be attributed to many factors including rapid globalization, the advance in transport, communication and technology, deteriorating political, socio-economic and environmental conditions, demographic factors and armed conflicts. The patterns of migration flows are mixed, complex and challenging. We should also point out that internal national migration is equally challenging to policy makers and adds complexity to the phenomenon of international migration.

Migrants are not a homogenous group; migrants may have the same basic needs, but they also have needs that are specific to their groupings which need to be addressed accordingly in managing international migration. For my government international migration and development is a new area that we are trying to understand and cope with. The government, with the support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), had initiated in 2004 a project on Migration for Development in Tanzania. A preliminary assessment has been undertaken and the Government is now working on the issues raised in the study. The management of migration requires a coordinated multi-sectorial approach, and in compliance with international human rights standards and practice. In this regard we wish to emphasize the importance of international cooperation and support in capacity building especially in the areas of:

1. Promotion of policy coherence on migration issues and sector development policies since migration cuts across various sectors. We need also to explore the mainstreaming of migration into poverty reduction and employment creation strategies.
2. Advocacy and communication of information on safe and legal migration such that migration is a result of informed choice and not a survival strategy and that it occurs in conditions of dignity.
3. Prevention and elimination of smuggling in persons, especially those of women and children.

4. Promotion of respect of human rights of migrant workers and their families

**Madam President,**

There has been much recognition on the volume of the remittances brought by migrant workers and the benefits to their home communities. Its positive impact of individual households' income can be significant but it cannot replace ODA. At the same time we need look into ways of enhancing their productive use as well as reducing their costs of remitting funds. While we cannot prevent migration, my government is also concerned on the **issue of brain drain** of skilled-as well **as brain waste** when those skilled migrants are not efficiently utilized. We encourage effective engagement of the Diaspora in contributing to the development of their countries of origin and as well as the transfer of technology from receiving to sending countries.

**Madam President,**

While it is widely recognized that migration when properly managed is beneficial to both sending and receiving communities, we note also that there is an information gap on many aspects of the linkage between migration and development. We would thus urge for more collaboration and cooperation among nations so as to gain and share knowledge and skills that will assist in the development of policies and regulations that will govern the many aspects and dimensions of migration such that we realize a win-win situation for migrants, their countries of origin and states that receive them

**Madam President,**

Let me conclude by saying that international migration is a phenomenon that is here to stay, and that since managing migration goes beyond one country boundaries, what is needed is concerted efforts among us to address the root causes of migration and provide an environment where migration is freely

undertaken in a safe, informed and dignified manner and with full respect to human rights. My country is committed to work with the international community in this endeavor.

Thank you for your attention.