



**STATEMENT**

**TO THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**BY**

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## **Introduction.**

Uganda takes cognizance of the well-developed manual "Agenda for International Migration Management", in which process we participated during the global consultative process at the regional level and under the Berne Initiative.

What is remaining therefore is the need for comprehensive and coherent global policies to manage International Migration.

## **Why the need for Comprehensive and Coherent Global Policies to manage International Migration.**

As the labor market has become increasingly global, labor migration has become a key means of accomplishing essential business objectives such as addressing labor market shortages. Improved mechanisms are needed to better match global labor supply and demand in ways that maximize the societal and human development potential of global labor mobility.

The need to invest in human resource development has taken on international significance as a result of increasing global labor mobility.

Ensuring that labor movements are safe, humane, legal and orderly is in the interest of all stakeholders, including individual migrants, governments or countries of origin and destination, the private sector, and civil society.

Increased transparency of migration regulatory framework is needed. A centralized information source on national and regional migration legislation, regulations and administrative requirements would benefit all stakeholders.

Remittances have become a significant source of global finance and a potential driver of economic growth, in developing countries like Uganda.

## Our experience in Migration Management.

1. Internal displacement caused by rebel activity in Northern Uganda came with its various challenges, including protected camps to guard the people from abductions and forced recruitment. Today, we are in peace talks with the rebels to end this conflict peacefully so that people can return home from IDP camps and engage in production and self determination.
2. Uganda has put in place a progressive refugee legislation that can allow refugees to live dignified lives by accessing land, produce, work and enjoy all the accruing rights. We have also been actively involved **in regional** efforts to resolve displacement of people in the Great Lakes region, such as Uganda's chairmanship of the successfully-completed Burundi peace talks; Southern Sudan under IGAD; and our efforts Somalia.
3. In the past Uganda produced a lot of migrants especially in the 1970s and 1980, due to our political history, in which we lost most highly qualified staff. But we have also received refugees from Rwanda, Congo, Somalia and Southern Sudan.

Together with IOM programme "Return of Qualified African Nationals" (RQAN), we have been able to return and place some of our highly qualified Ugandans that had fled the country.

We have also together with IOM developed the new programme "Migration For Development in Africa" (MIDA programme) in which the potential of Diaspora can be harnessed through virtual returns, temporary returns and other technological exploitation of their skills. We call for support to the MIDA Programme in developing countries, through IOM.

4. The Constitution of Uganda has been amended to allow Ugandans who have acquired other citizenship to remain Ugandans, i.e., dual citizenship is now allowed by our Constitution.
5. We have also set up a unit in the Ministry of Labour, to handle the externalization of labour. Regulations have been developed and endorsed by government to guide this process, where we have surplus labour.
6. Through the East African Community, with support from American government, we have through IOM, implemented a migration management programme in which boarder officials have acquired related training, provided with small necessary equipment to handle migration. The project also laid down a framework for a comprehensive review of migration legislation.
7. Our commitment and support for the East African Federation to guarantee free movement of people, goods, and services as a region develops into a one citizenship country, will ease free movement of people.

In conclusion, we badly need capacity building and positive programmes that can bring us all together to an effective level of global migration management.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.