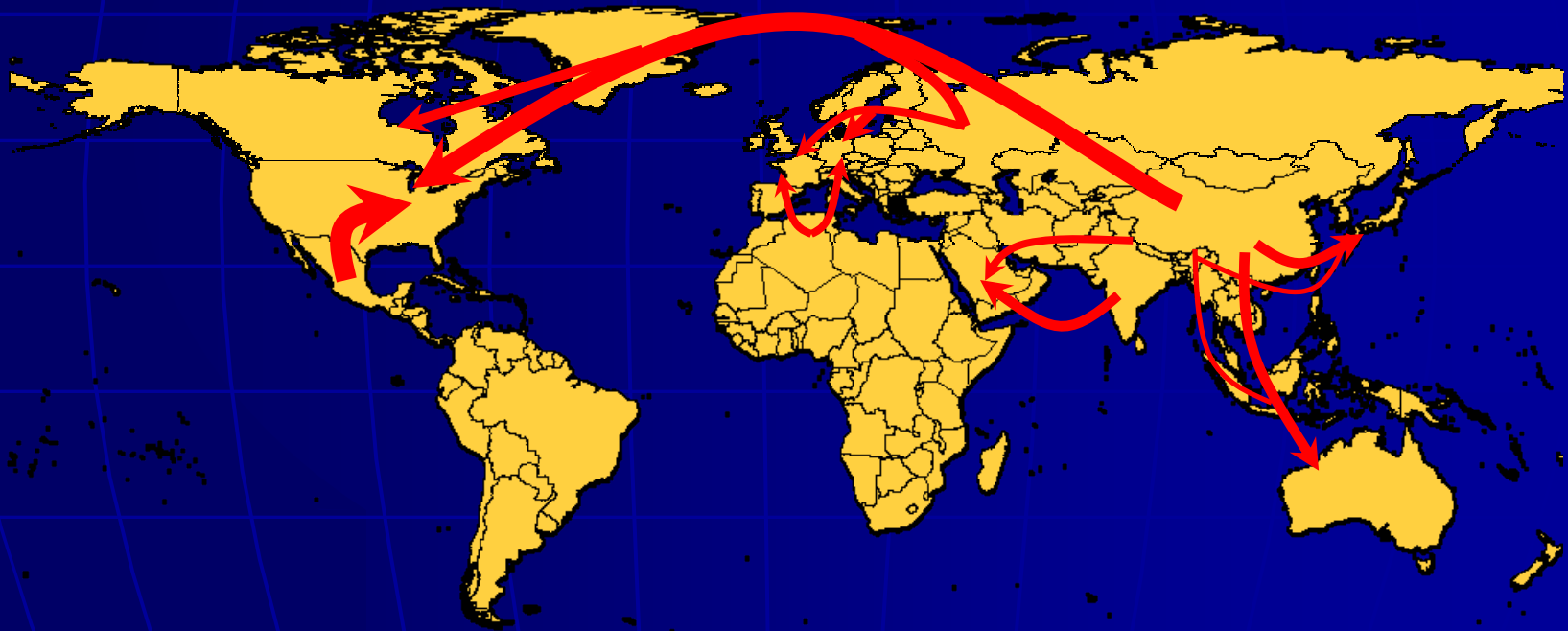



International Migration Policies: An Overview



United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division



**What is driving
international
migration?**

Countries of destination:

- Sub-replacement fertility/
population ageing
- Labour shortages
- Improved transportation and
communications

Countries of origin:

- High population growth
- Unemployment
- Political, social and ethnic conflict

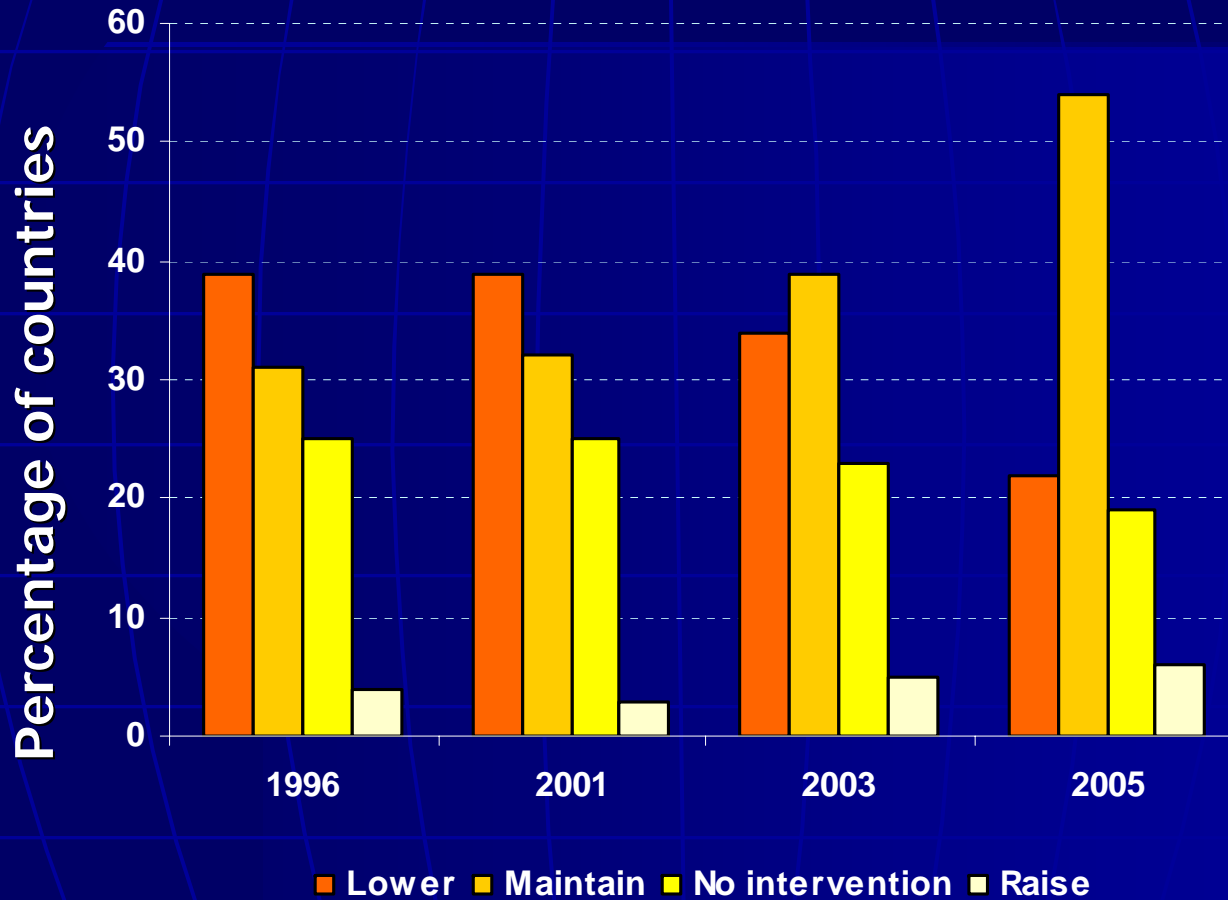
Result:

- 191 million migrants
- 16 million more migrants since 2000
- US\$ 226 billion remittances

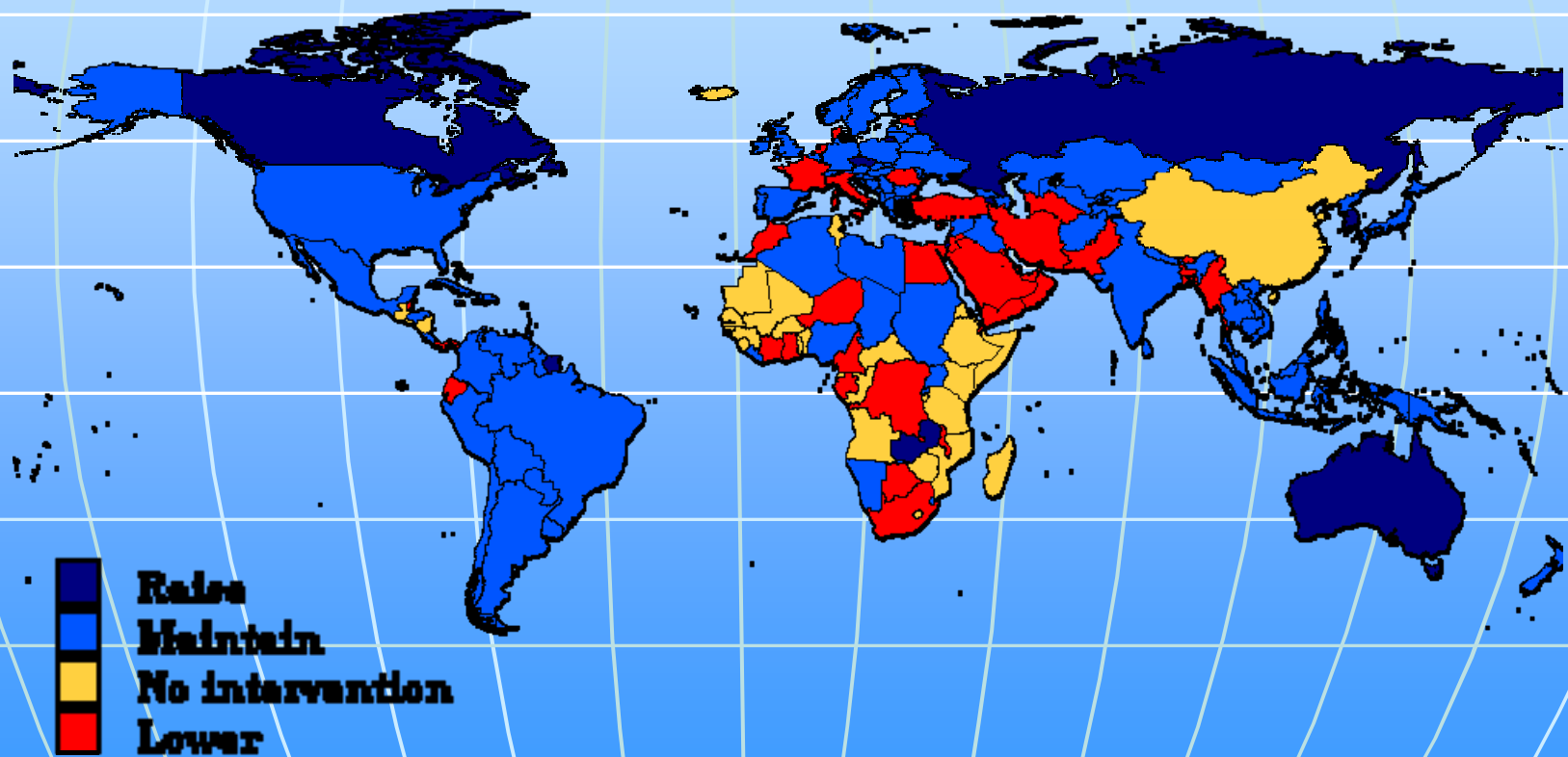


Government policies on immigration

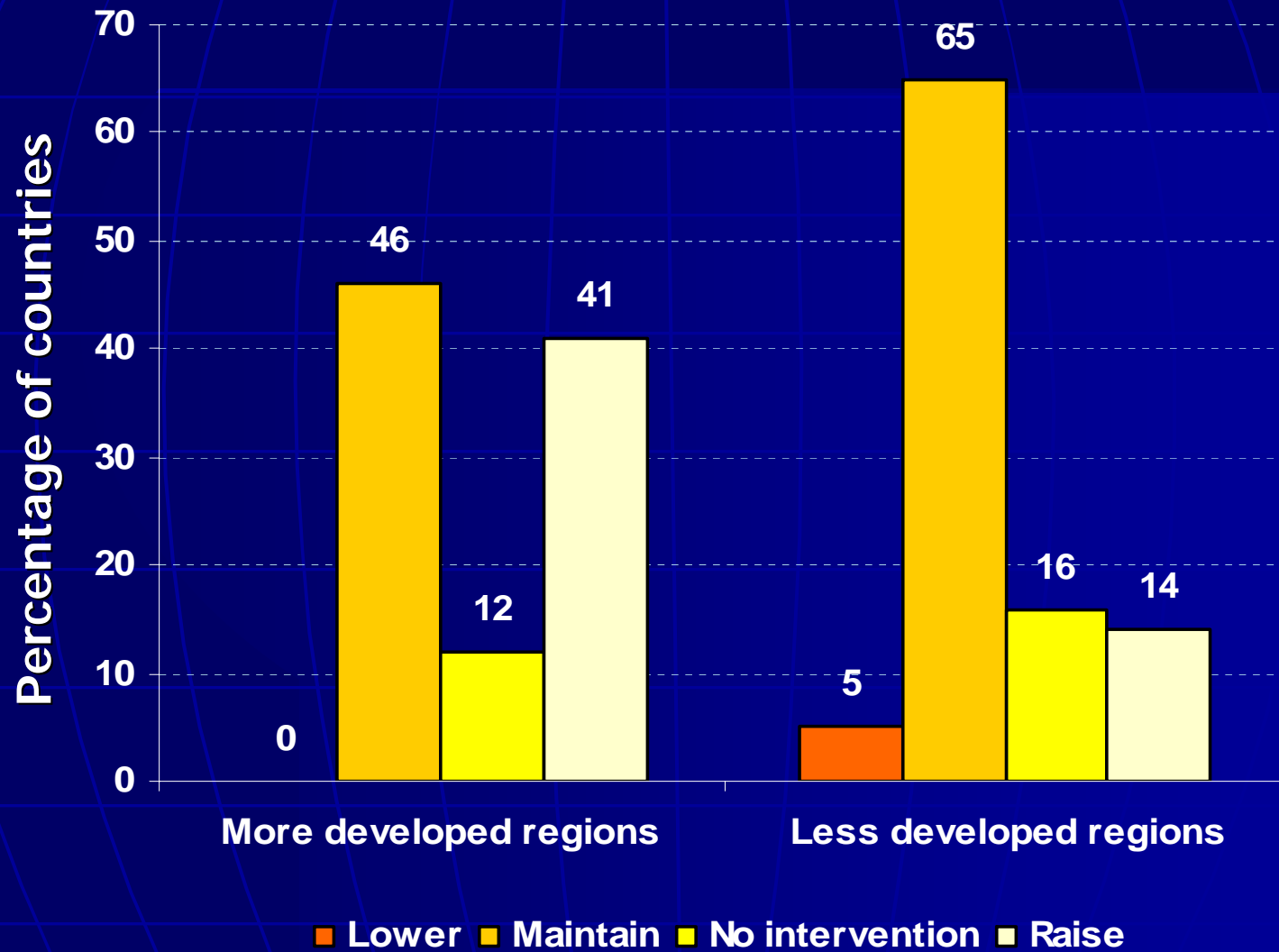
Immigration policies



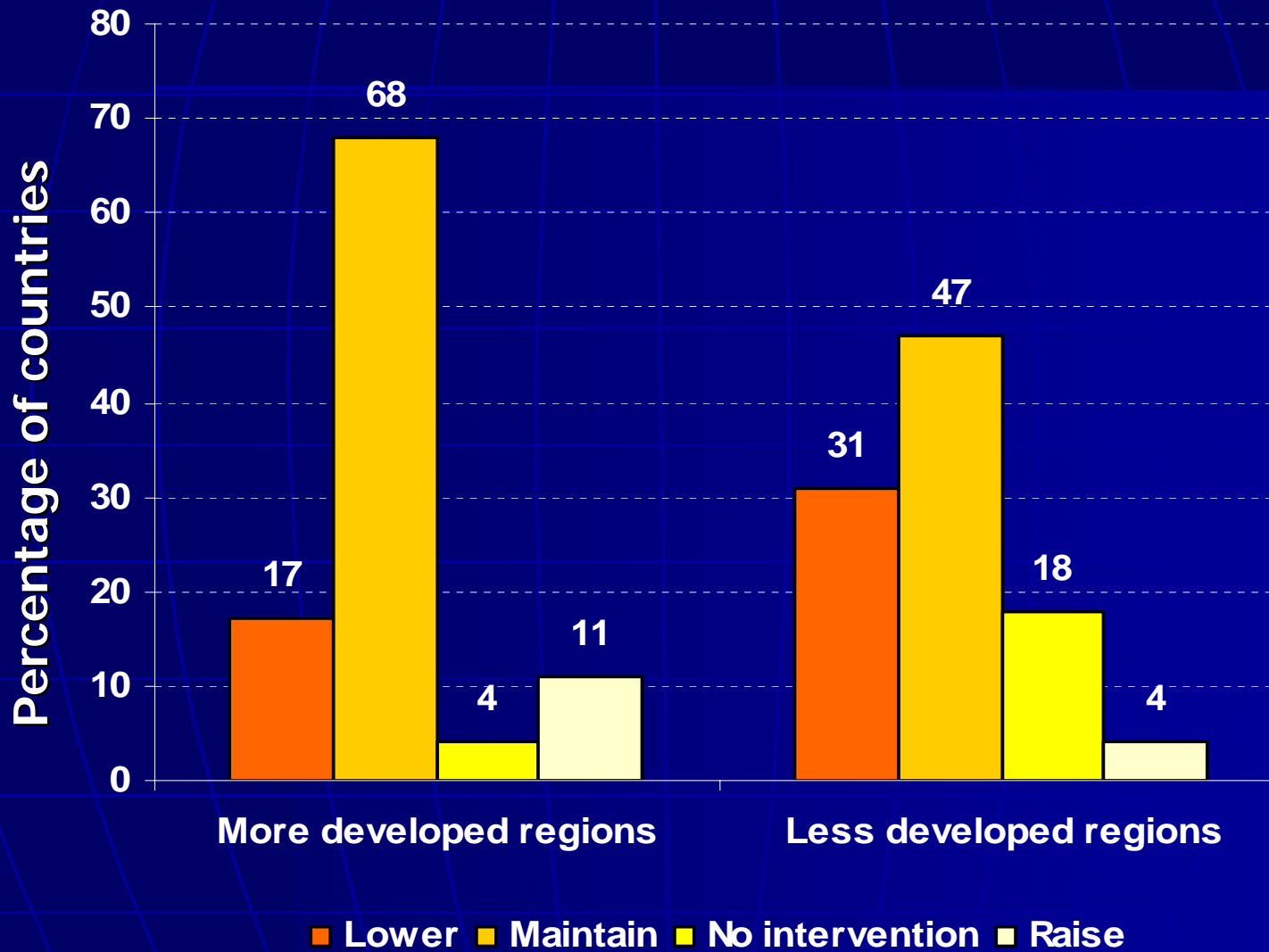
Immigration policies 2005



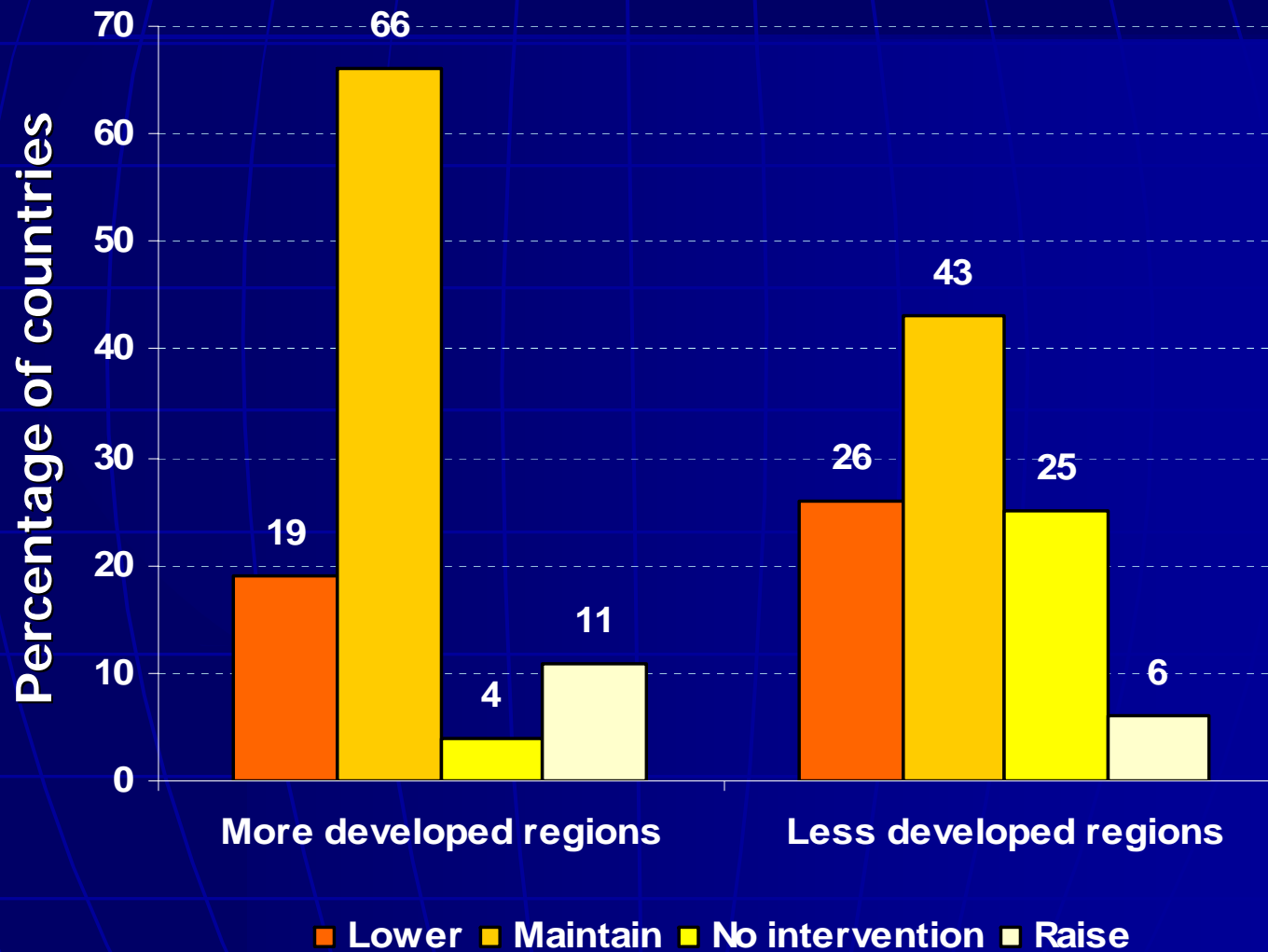
Highly skilled workers



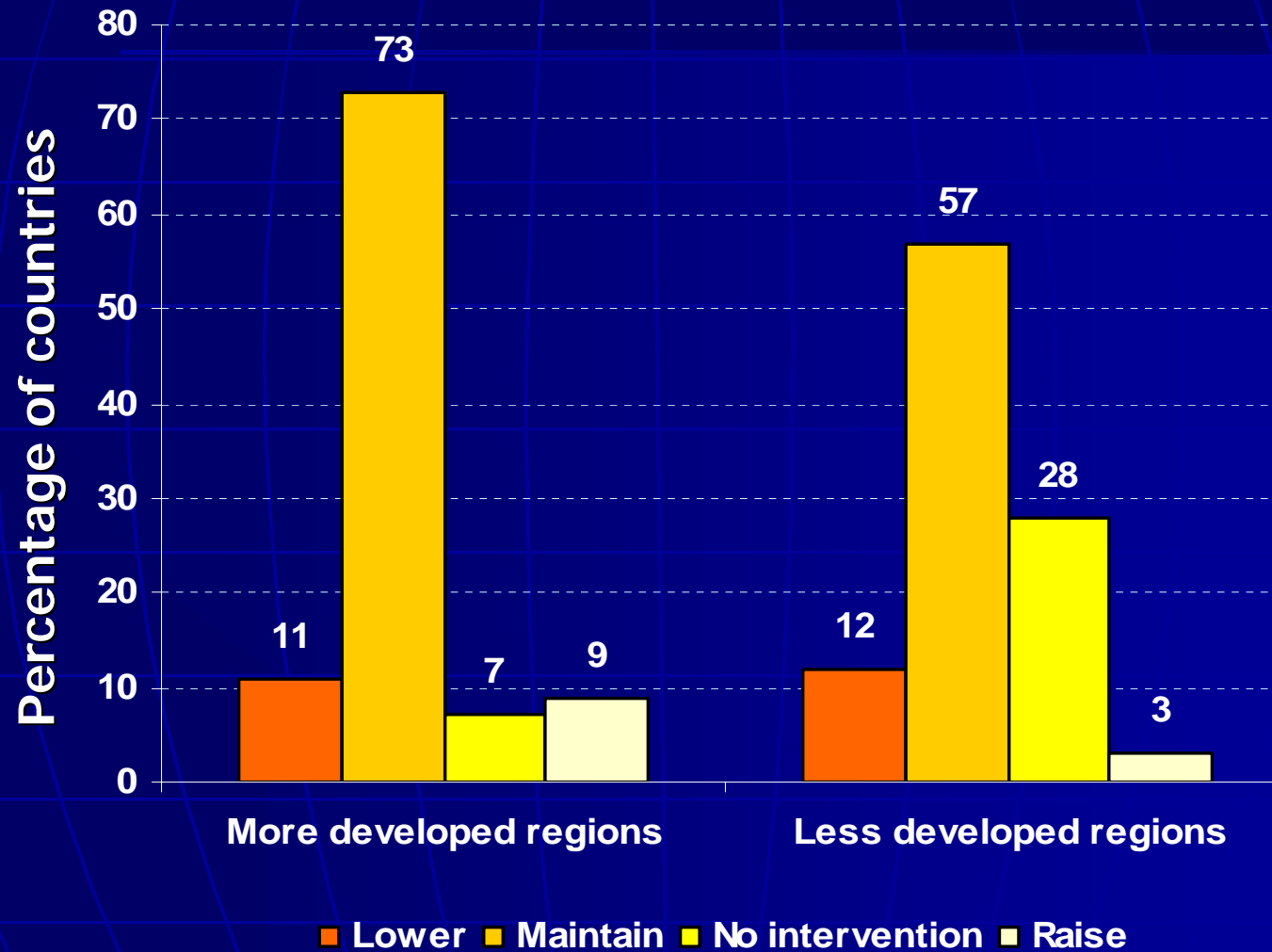
Temporary migration



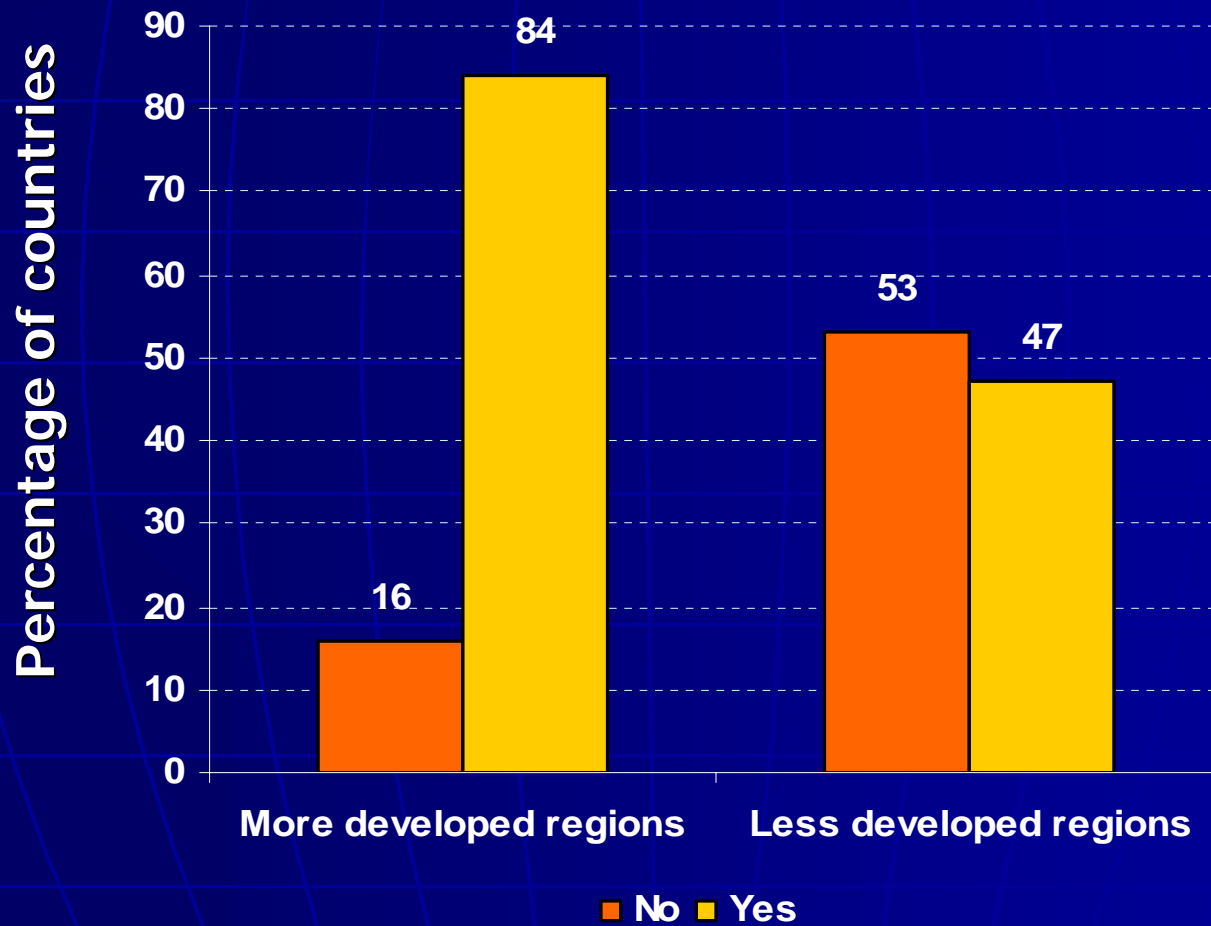
Permanent settlement



Family reunification



Integration of non-nationals



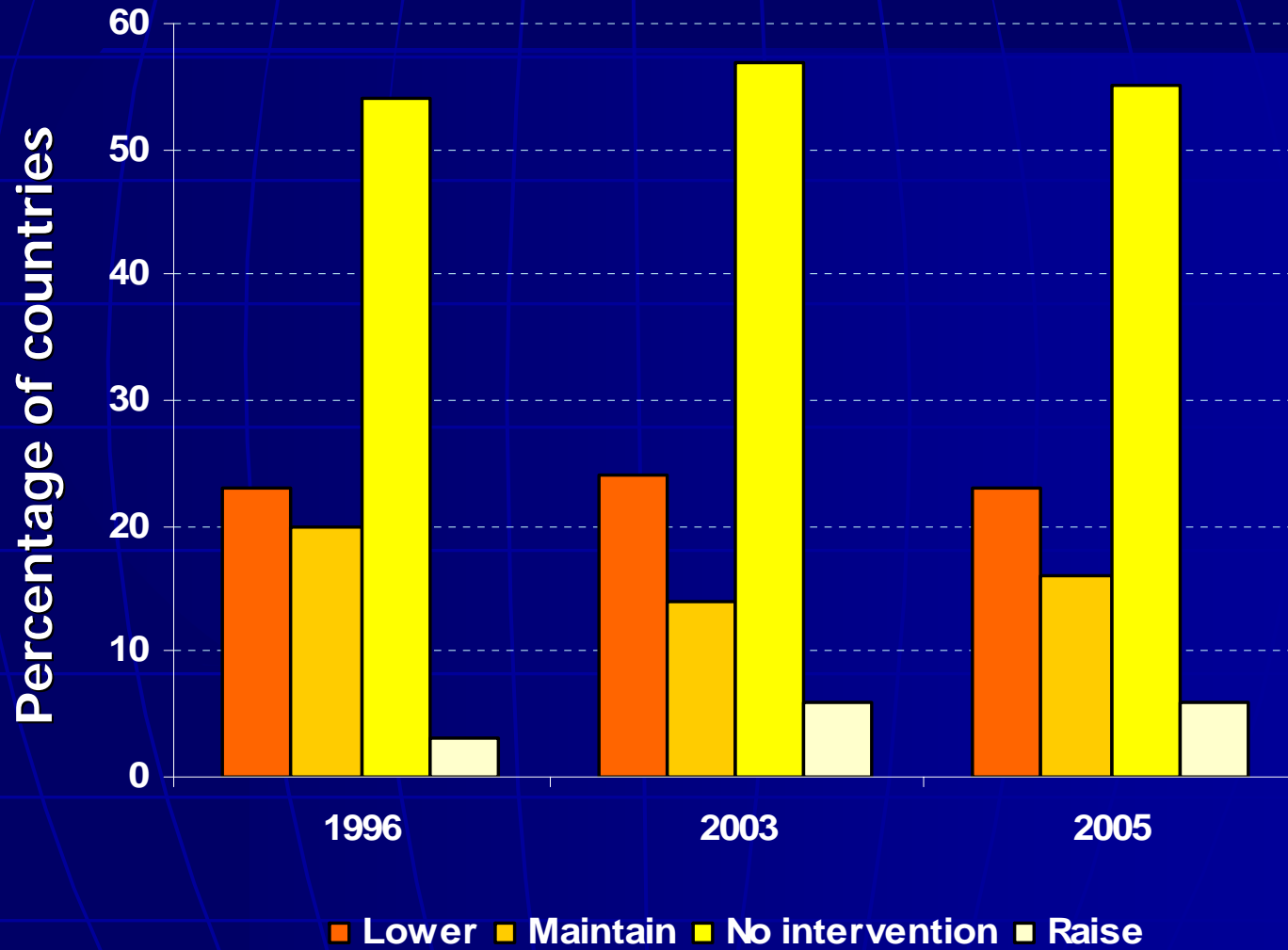
Countries clamping down on irregular migration

- More stringent visa requirements
- Tighter border security
- Regularization programmes
(about 5.5 million regularized)
- Bilateral readmission agreements

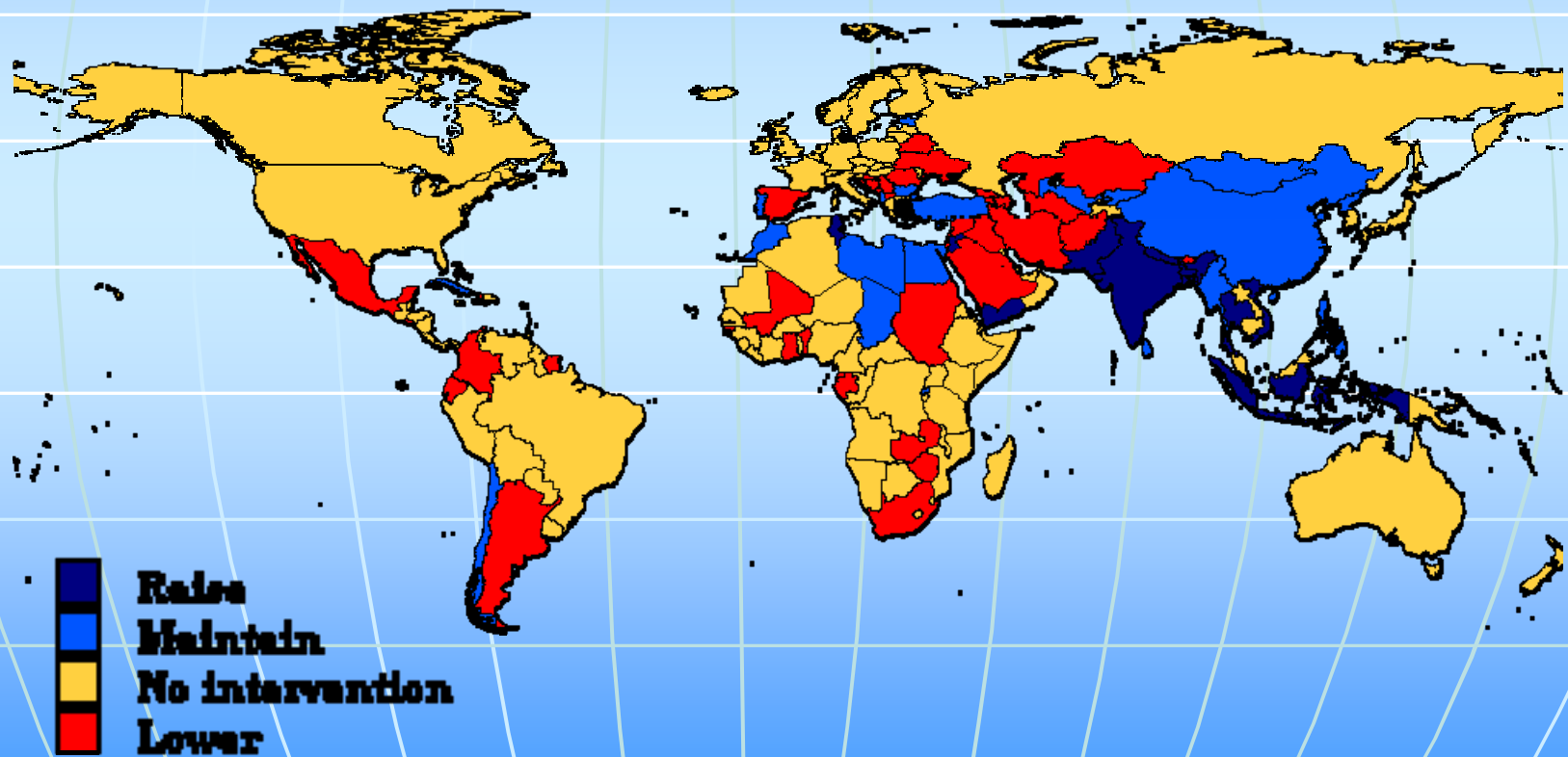


Government policies on emigration

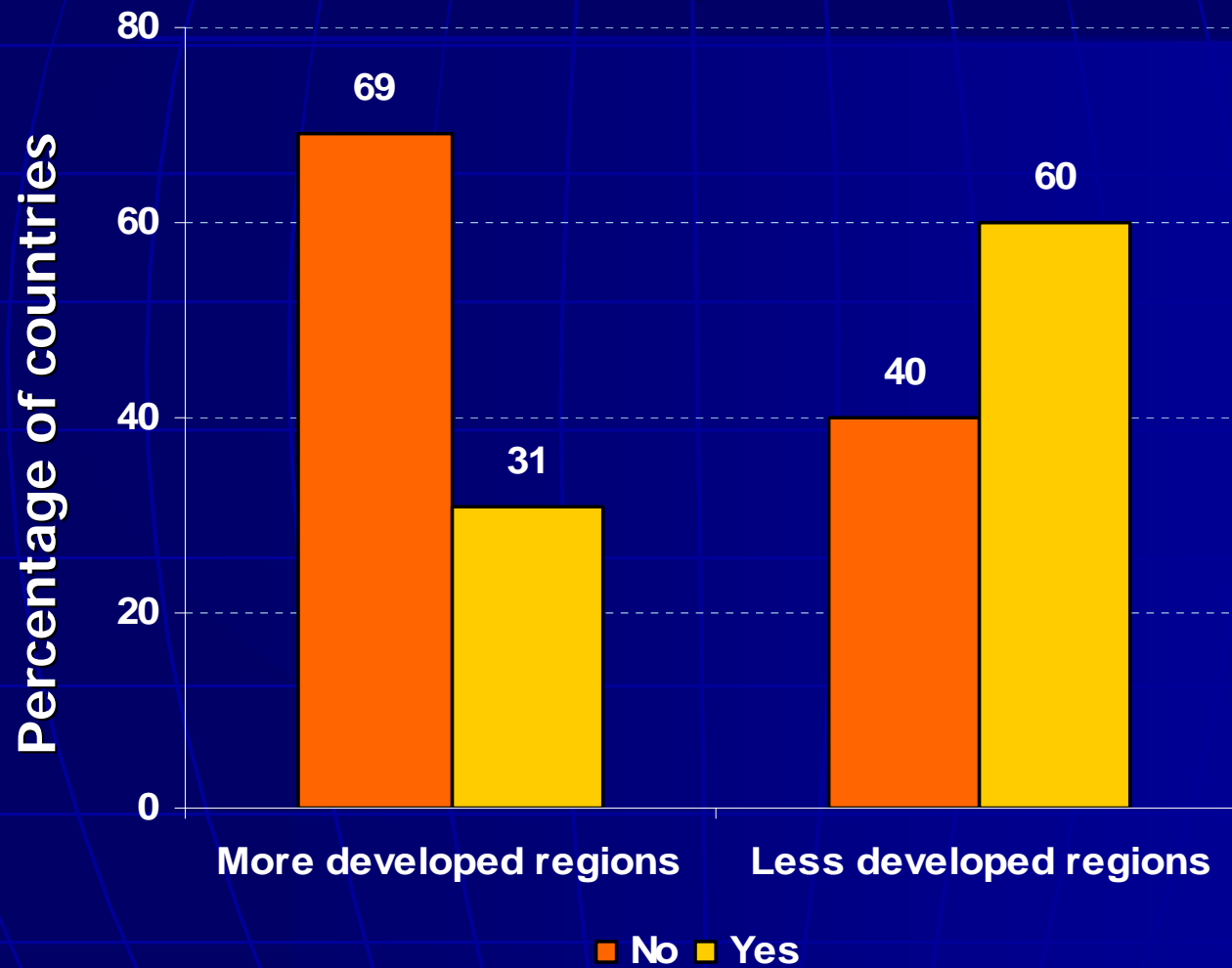
Emigration policies



Emigration policies 2005



Encourage the return of migrants



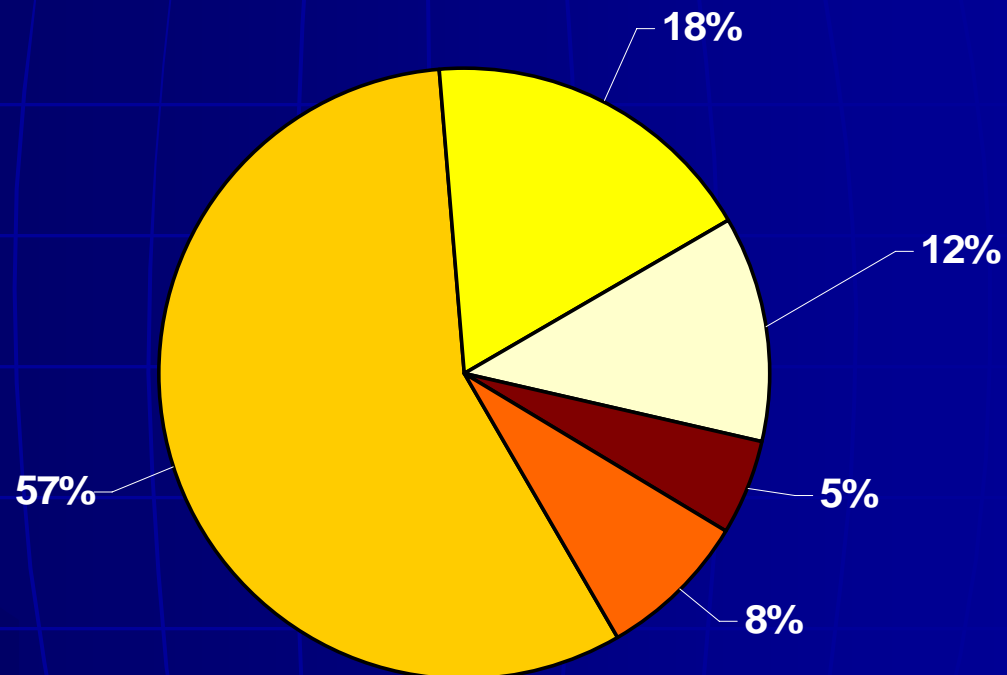


Bilateral initiatives

Bilateral initiatives

- 595 agreements
($\frac{1}{2}$ in 10 countries)
- 320 readmission agreements
- > number of agreements

Type of bilateral agreements



- Social security
- Guest worker/labour migration
- Trainees/young professionals
- Seasonal migration
- Other

Regional initiatives

Regional agreements

- European Union
- Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Informal consultative processes

At least:

Africa	2
Americas	2
Asia	3
Europe	4



Global initiatives

International legal instruments

Ratifying countries:

Convention on Migrant Workers	34
Protocol on trafficking	97
Protocol on smuggling	89

Global initiatives

- **Report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening the United Nations (2002)**
- **United Nations General Assembly**
 - Report of Secretary-General on international migration and development (2006)
 - High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (14-15 September, 2006)

Global initiatives

- **Global Migration Group (2006)**
- **Report of the Global Commission on International Migration (2005)**

Conclusions

1. Migration will remain at forefront of national and international agendas for foreseeable future

- With low fertility and population ageing, immigration needed to fill labour shortages, forestall population decline, sustain economic growth
- For many countries of origin, remittances are a major source of foreign exchange

2. Making migration work for all countries, while respecting rights and responsibilities of migrants is a major challenge and opportunity

Conclusions

3. "It is for Governments to decide whether more or less migration is desirable. Our focus in the international community should be on the quality and safety of the migration experience and on what can be done to maximize its development benefits."

Report of the Secretary-General on
International migration and development

**For more information, visit the
Population Division web site:**



<http://www.unpopulation.org>