



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
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STATEMENT BY
THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM
OF THE NETHERLANDS
MR ARJAN P. HAMBURGER

AT
THE 39th SESSION
OF
THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK, 6 APRIL 2006

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

As this is the first time for the Netherlands to take the floor, I congratulate you and your colleagues of the bureau with your election.

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement made by the EU-presidency. I use this opportunity to add a few comments in a national capacity.

First, Mr. Chair, I would like to make a general point relating to the ICPD-agenda. As was pointed out by Ms. Obaid on Monday morning, the financial resources which are needed to implement the Cairo-agenda are seriously lagging behind. That is a very worrying development, which is seriously hampering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular MDG 5 on maternal health.

A majority of resources are mobilized by a few major donors and there has been a pronounced shift towards funding for HIV/AIDS at the expense of other vital population and reproductive health activities, in particular family planning. We would like to call upon all to increase their funding for reproductive health so that a more balanced spending between the funds for HIV/Aids and traditional population activities, like family planning, in order to meet the unmet needs of millions of women in the world and fulfil their rights.

The Netherlands is pleased with the increased attention for the challenging and complex issue of migration and development. The choice of this topic for the Commission this week is very timely. The outcome of this week's discussions should provide valuable input to the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in September.

That dialogue should be based on mutual understanding of each others positions and the will to positively work together. We need concrete results of the High Level Dialogue and would welcome a clear focus on issues of common interest, such as circular migration, strengthening capacity building on migration management and stopping human trafficking and smuggling. To achieve this, it is important to start preparations in Geneva and New York now.

The days are over when immigration policies and development policies were seen as different worlds. Increasingly, governments realise that both immigration and emigration have an effect on development, sometimes positive, sometimes negative. In the Netherlands, we work towards a whole-of-government approach which ensures that migration and development policies reinforce each other.

Policy coherence on migration and development starts at home. Since 2004, the Netherlands strives for an integrated policy on migration and development. The Minister for Development Cooperation and the Minister for Immigration and Integration have for instance formulated a common policy on migration and development. As part of this they recently visited Kenya together, where they discussed refugee protection, human trafficking and capacity building for migration management.

International migration, if managed well, can contribute to the reduction of people living in poverty. Development policies can help to improve the management of migration. With these aims in mind, the Netherlands supports inter alia capacity building for migration management and projects which stimulate migrants to continue to be involved in the development of their country of origin.

The High Level Dialogue should also discuss the various consequences of brain drain - and the movement of labour in general - for the effectiveness of the health sector and other important sectors. We favour developing international measures to reduce the negative effects of brain drain.

The Netherlands attaches particular importance to the position of female migrants and the special risks they face, such as trafficking and sexual abuse. It is very important that this group of women has adequate access to sexual and reproductive health services, which in practice too often is not the reality.

Finally, Mr Chairman,

We acknowledge that the discussions this week and during the High Level Dialogue will not focus on refugees and internally displaced persons. However, we should not forget about this group and should keep the important link between migration and refugees and internally displaced persons in mind.