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**Statement delivered by**

**H.E. Ambassador João Salgueiro**

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Mister Chairperson,

As this is the first time Portugal takes the floor during this session of the Commission of Population and Development, please allow me to congratulate you, and the other members of your Bureau, on your election. I am confident that you will steer the work of this important session of the Commission to a successful conclusion.

Allow me, firstly, to align this statement to the one made earlier by Austria in its capacity as Presidency of the European Union on the theme of "International Migration and Development" and to add a few points of particular importance to my country.

Mister Chairman,

The Cairo Programme of Action and its Key Actions for Further implementation is central in its goals and objectives in what concerns international migration, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, gender equality and women's empowerment. It is in this context that we would like to stress the implementation of the ICPD and its Key Actions as an important factor in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It is also critical to approach the issues contained in the ICPD from a rights-based approach, as there can be no development without the respect of human rights.

Portugal recognizes that the links between international migration and development are complex, but that migration, when managed effectively, can have a substantial positive impact both for receiving country and for the country of origin.

It is important to raise awareness of the multi-dimensional aspects of migration in development terms so as to maximise the positive impact of migration while limiting its negative consequences for countries of origin, transit, and destination, as well as for the individual migrants themselves.

Cooperation between recipient and origin countries, which should be deepened, is of the utmost importance. By means of a cooperative dialogue, migration pressures on some countries may become lighter, and countries may well cooperate in designing strategies to retain their populations who may be important contributors towards the country's future development.

On this basis, we are in favour of increased dialogue on international migration between states and regions, including on the important issue of south-south migration. We welcome, in this regard, the upcoming initiatives and endeavours regarding the EU-Africa dialogue and look forward to the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development this coming September.

Mister Chairman,

Portugal's national policies on international migration are firmly rooted in the European Union's common migration policy framework which is based on four pillars: 1) the move towards establishing a common European asylum system which fully respects obligations under international treaties; 2) an increasing focus on legal immigration and the integration of legally resident third country nationals; 3) fair treatment for third country nationals and; 4) cooperation with third countries of origin and transit.

Portugal has been in the past a migrant sending country. In the last decades it has become also a host country and is now faced with immigration in significant numbers. On a national basis we are therefore faced with new challenges but we also possess some experience and some inspiration from examples of integration that our immigrants have experienced abroad.

Portugal has gone through an economically prosperous period, resulting in an ever-increasing need for labour that led to a registered increase in immigration. This phenomenon had recently broadened the range of countries and cultures represented in Portugal, as well as the range of skills of its immigrant communities. However, the economic situation of the last few years has rendered many of those immigrants jobless and therefore vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion. This has made Portugal as conscious as other European countries of the magnitude of the difficulties related to immigrant integration.

Mister Chairman,

It is in this context that Portugal adopted a policy open to regulated immigration, while defining a range of measures based on three fundamental pillars: integration, inspection, and regulation.

Migration should be managed in such a way that the awarding of entry clearance for a migrant would always be synchronised with integration measures that prevent social exclusion, while reinforcing equal treatment before the law for migrants and their families, for example in what regards access to education, health care and employment under national systems.

It is important to note that migrants are one of the population groups most vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion. This calls for action in promoting the integration of immigrants in host countries, while at the same time motivating them to contribute to the development of their countries of origin. This linkage will provide a win-win dynamic because it can also contribute to the integration of the migrant in the host society, while actively promoting civil engagement between the sending and receiving countries. In this regard, Portugal encourages the formation of migrants' associations and promotes sensitisation among migrants regarding development programmes in their countries of origin.

We are of the view that the integration of migrants must play a key role within national and regional policies, including because of their crucial importance to labour markets. In a context of globalisation, the relation with migrant communities should be open enough to make them feel at home and enjoy their

rights as well as enforce their duties, but also give them space to preserve their identity and keep their roots alive.

Mister Chairman,

The regulation of migration should be approached as the key to promote legal immigration while preventing illegal immigration. In this regard, special consideration must be given to the violence derived from all forms of trafficking in human beings - affecting in particular women and children. We need to intensify prevention efforts regarding all forms of trafficking, focusing on illegal recruitment networks and human traffic, and couple those with measures to support the victims. In this context, special attention should be given to women's empowerment as a way of achieving autonomy and combat discrimination and exploitation.

Mister Chairman,

For both sending and recipient countries to better understand international migration and to translate their reality into suitable policies, it is essential to have appropriate statistical mechanisms to assess statistics in relation to migration, and also possess the capacity to analyse, interpret and use such data. One small but significant part of what development aid can do is to assist countries of origin in keeping records of their own emigrant population, who they are, where they go, and what kind of links they maintain to their countries of origin.

Our interest in these issues is reflected also in a series of discussions that are foreseen to take place in Portugal in 2006 and 2007. In our case, migrant flows are still very significantly coming from CPLP countries (Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries), which, for historical reasons, are simultaneously the main recipients of Portuguese development assistance. In recognition of this link, we are organising with the IOM office in Lisbon, a Seminar in June, on the role of the CPLP diaspora in promoting development in their countries of origin. Beyond that, Lisbon will host the important Metropolis Conference in the coming autumn. The main goal of the Conference, which will have the special theme of "Paths and Crossroads: Moving People, Changing Places", is to consider and debate migration not only from the point of view of places of destination and the effects of migration on receiving countries, but also from the perspective of migrants' countries of origin and the consequences of human mobility on migrants.

Constant dialogue with stakeholders is critical to the solution of problems and for that reason Portugal is in the process of institutionalising a working group between Portugal and Cape Verde, designed to define joint strategies that are appropriate for the specificity of Cape-verdian immigration in Portugal (which is also a transit country for cape-verdian immigration to other countries), including second generation migrants, and address the issues pertaining to migration in their multiple components.

We are also looking at the different experiences that can be gained in relation to other Portuguese-speaking countries, including on the usability of the existing networks between migrant associations in Portugal and civil society organisations on the ground for development aid purposes. We are also currently addressing the situation of second generation immigrants from Portuguese-speaking African countries, some of whom are insufficiently integrated into our community. Legislation is currently under discussion in our Parliament regarding further possible avenues for naturalization for documented migrants.

Mister Chairman,

Lastly, it is critical for me to highlight that although remittances are private flows they can play an essential role in local economies, provide an important source of foreign exchange to recipient countries and investment opportunities. We note that the volume of remittances is estimated to be 2-3 times higher than that of ODA. We encourage increased competition for remittance transfers so as to promote more secure, faster, and cheaper transfer methods for funds earned legally and transferred for legal purposes. Portugal is currently promoting a series of research studies regarding remittances (from and to the country), including the development dimension of this flows, with Regional Development Banks, namely the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. We are also engaging in contacts with OECD regarding a national evaluation on comprehensive approach to labour migration.

Thank you Mister Chairman.