

**United Nations Organization High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development  
14-15 September 2006, New York**

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**Statement by Mrs. Emilia Maslarova -  
-Minister of Labour and Social Policy of Bulgaria and  
Head of the Bulgarian Delegation**

**Dear Mr. Chairman,  
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Bulgaria welcomes the conduct of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development as a necessary and well-timed step. Our country took active part in all forums related to its preparation.

Bulgaria fully supports the position of the EU delegation expressed at this forum. We share the opinion that the migration can contribute to achieving higher extent of economic and social development. The effectively managed processes of migration can produce a substantial positive result for the sending and the receiving countries. To this end, it is necessary to apply an integrated and successive approach to migration and development and at the same time undertake measures for the integration of the immigrants while respecting their rights.

The Dialogue provides the opportunity to incorporate the migration issue into the agenda for development within the UNO framework. The Forum has the necessary support and capacity to focus the attention for including migration in the development strategies of the different countries.

It is important that the discussion continues after the High-level Dialogue. It will provide for the beneficial exchange of experience and expertise to ensure the positive effect of migration on the development. We are of the opinion that duplication of structures and activities should be avoided. It would be useful to direct efforts to better coordination between the existing structures and forums of the UNO and the other international organizations performing activities in this

field.

As an external border of the EU from January 2007 on, Bulgaria is interested in the creation of instruments for the integrated management of migration processes. In this regard we are ready for cooperation at all levels in compliance with the common EU policy and practice.

From the viewpoint of its own experience, Bulgaria is attaching great importance to the regional approach for cooperation in the field of migration and development. As a very good example in this regard we can point at the Process of Rabat which was launched at the Ministerial Euro – African Conference on Migration and Development in July this year, part of which is the meeting we have today.

The issue of statistics is an important element of migration policy of each country. The exchange of information is of key importance in the activities related to migration at all levels. We have conducted a sociological research titled "Emigration attitudes among adult population in Bulgaria" with the aim to collect reliable information about the emigration attitudes of the population, particularly within the context of the forthcoming accession of the country to the EU.

The High-level Dialogue is the first forum where we are presenting preliminary data provided by the research by BBSS „Gallup International” of August 2006. The results clearly show that the

number of people willing to emigrate for a long term has reduced by half the Bulgarian citizens prefer to go abroad for a short term. In relation to the labour migration – in the next 5 years some 15 100 - 16 200 people would like to work in another country, whereas some 14 000 - 15 300 people would like to work on the EU labour market for the same period. During the first year of the EU membership less than 4 000 people would like to work in EU member-states. Where do the Bulgarians want to work? First place in their preferences is occupied by Spain, followed by Germany, the USA, Greece, the Great Britain, Canada, Ireland and France. A normal migration behavior of Bulgarian citizens is being outlined, comparable to the behavior of the average EU citizen. This results from the stable economy and the low unemployment rate in the country - 8.76%, also comparable to that of the EU.

We believe that partnership and cooperation will contribute to improving the dialogue at bilateral and multilateral level; the creation of capacity will support the coordination of the work at all levels in the field of migration and development – for achieving cohesion and maximum benefits for the countries as well as for the migrants themselves.

To conclude, let me once again emphasize that Bulgaria, by its policy in the field of migration and development, fully supports the positive migration which contributes to completely achieve the objectives of the millennium.

Thank you for your attention.