



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

**at the Second Committee of UNGA 67
Agenda item 22b – Migration and Development**

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In support of proposals made for transitioning towards a paperless committee, complete copies of this statement will be made available on the websites of the Delegation of the European Union to the UN and the 2nd Committee, respectively.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland⁺ and Serbia, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

Mr. President,

The European Union and its Member States welcome the organisation of the second High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD) scheduled for autumn 2013. The first HLD provided a valuable framework for global dialogue on migration, promoting recognition of the important linkages between migration and development and paving the way for more effective international cooperation on this topic. In particular, the first HLD resulted in the creation of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which is an important venue for discussing issues related to migration and development in a systematic and comprehensive way. We believe that the forthcoming 2013 HLD is an excellent opportunity to update and deepen the global discussion on migration and development.

The important links between migration and development issues are clearly recognised both in the EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, which sets the overarching framework for the external EU migration policy, and in the EU's new development policy framework, the 'Agenda for Change'. Since

*Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

⁺Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

2005, the EU and its Member States established a broad and truly comprehensive migration policy, which looks at all dimensions of migration and mobility, which takes into account the concerns of its partner countries, and respects the principle of Policy Coherence for Development and addresses relevant issues from a migrant's perspective. The EU also acquired valuable expertise in promoting bilateral and regional cooperation on migration through the support to regional dialogue processes, mobility partnerships, and technical and financial cooperation. The EU and its Member States stand ready to share their experience in these areas at the HLD.

However, the EU and Member States believe that there is a need to adopt a more ambitious and holistic approach to the relationship between migration and development, in particular given the increasing role played by migration in the economy of many developing countries, the social costs and benefits that can follow from this, the importance of South-South migration issues and the perspective of shared responsibility of both countries of origin and destination.

We believe that there are two general objectives to be targeted through the HLD: firstly, it is crucial to broaden the current development and migration agenda, notably by recognising changing migration patterns (a consequence of changing economic, social, demographic and environmental conditions), and by better addressing South-South migration and the role that can be played by migration in economic and social development. Secondly, further consideration should be given to promoting the integration of migration with development strategies, including *inter alia* forced migration, as well as the potential synergies between migration and other areas such as employment policy and trade. In this regard, possibilities should also be considered for ensuring that the important links between migration and development are adequately recognised in the post-2015 development framework.

In order to achieve the objectives highlighted above, and based on the proposals made in the SG report, the EU identified the following priorities that should be reflected in the **roundtable topics**:

a) Promoting legal and orderly migration, while protecting migrant rights

We would like to see realized the round table number II proposed in the SG report. This round table should review the progress made in promoting and fostering legal, safe and orderly migration, as well as measure to combat irregular migration and trafficking in human beings systematically. In order to maximise the benefits of migration and development, the discussions could also reflect on migrants rights and migratory needs of developed countries.

b) Mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development planning and further promote international cooperation on migration

This session should explore the mechanisms and instruments available to states to ensure that migration is properly addressed in their development strategies and their international cooperation with countries of origin, transit or destination. Approaches should be considered to design appropriate national strategies on migration in developing countries, and put in place appropriate capacities for their implementation. Particular attention should be given to the concept of Policy Coherence for Development, and to the need to better integrate the development-refugee nexus, in particular in protracted situations, into discussions on migration and development. This proposal merges the roundtable topics III and IV as proposed in the SG report.

Additionally we would propose the following themes to be covered in the round tables:

c) Assessing the effects of migration (including forced migration) on the economic and social development of countries of origin and destination and identifying relevant priorities in view of preparations of the post-2015 development framework:

As reflection on the post-2015 development framework is currently beginning, the EU believes that the HLD provides an ideal opportunity to better explore the links between migration and the current MDGs and more accurately assess the role of migration for all development sectors, with a view to informing on-going discussions on the future framework. This roundtable will also tackle forced migrations, as a result of political and armed conflicts or environmental risks including the situation of protracted refugees.

d) Promoting well-managed regional labour mobility

Regional mobility is a key component of broader regional integration agendas and can provide significant benefits in terms of promoting people-to-people contacts, strengthening transnational labour markets and boosting trade and economic growth. Given that the majority of international migration occurs between countries within the same region, the EU feels that measures to strengthen governance frameworks for regional mobility worldwide can make a significant contribution to improving the conditions for and promoting the development impact of migration, including South-South flows.

As regards the **modalities** of the 2013 High Level Dialogue, the EU and its Member States stand ready to engage with partners to achieve agreement towards the best way to have a successful High Level Dialogue.

Thank you.