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STATEMENT
BY H.E. AIGUL RYSKULOVA
MINISTER, CHAIRPERSON OF THE STATE
COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT
AT
THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT

September 14, 2006, New York

Address

by

A.Ryskulova, Chairperson of State Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic for Migration and Employment at plenary session of Summit Dialogue dedicated to issues of migration and development within 61st Session of UN General Assembly on September 14-15, 2006

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

First and foremost, let me express on behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, our sincere gratitude to Mr. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, for the successful organization of this session, and to Mr. Brunson McKinley, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, for the consistent support and development of migration policy in our country.

This summit dialogue on issues related to migration and development is so important because we will outline our future activities within this meeting.

Dear Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Presently, a regulation of migration processes is one of the main policy-making issues for all states. Both domestic and foreign policies of any country are based on economic values, which in turn, are closely linked with issues of migration and development.

Increasingly, more developing countries have begun steering purposeful and circumspect policy, introducing legislation, and establishing of institutes for working with regulation of migration processes.

As the Kyrgyz Republic is developing within market economy rules, it has experienced all types of migration. The geopolitical situation of Kyrgyzstan, such as its proximity to countries with unstable political situations, two military campaigns in the south, as well as general domestic unemployment, have defined priorities in regulation of migration processes in Kyrgyzstan.

Currently, a clear state migration policy is in effect in the Kyrgyz Republic, and is implemented by the newly established State Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic for Migration and Employment. We believe that this policy is based on the recognition that migration is an objective process and, within this context, our principal aim is to benefit the interests of the individual, society, and the state as a whole. We consider it necessary in our work to emphasize the positive consequences and potential of migration, such as its positive impact on the local economy, the domestic labor market, poverty reduction, cultural enrichment, the transfer of labor know-how and skills upon the return home of migrants, to name only a few.

Unfortunately, Kyrgyzstan has recently faced a number of related problems, first of all linked to the protection of human rights and lawful interests of labor migrants and their families in host-countries. The Government has undertaken certain primary actions towards the formation of international treaty basis for labor migration, advice and information for migrants about their rights, and the establishment of expatriate communities and cultural centers in order to provide legal protection.

It is time to enhance the support to migrants who remit funds with intergovernmental and interbank agreements targeted towards the reduction of transaction costs. Some problems remain to be addressed, such as how to more effectively use migrant remittances for start-ups of small businesses, investment into family budget and education. I feel that we definitely will need and welcome the experience and assistance of international and financial organizations, in particular those of the International Organization for Migration, which is considered by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, as the leading organization in addressing such global migration issues.

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has a significant collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) related to management of the migration process, capacity building and legislation development. IOM in Kyrgyzstan assists the Government with the development of new concepts for migration policy, which will also reflect main global trends and absorb international experience in this field.

Dear Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

One of the main principles and rules of international migration is that the State has the capacity to control and regulate border crossing. This mandate, however, is not absolute as it must adhere to the human right to free travel and commitments of the State stipulated in various international agreements and treaties.

Acknowledging the commitment of the Kyrgyz Republic to basic principles and regulations of International Law, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic undertakes all measures required to secure rights for all categories of migrants. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic lends aid to involuntarily displaced persons and refugees, people seeking for Kyrgyz citizenship, voluntarily displaced persons from ethnic Kyrgyz, who live abroad.

I hope that this session will lead us into constructive dialogue, shedding light on different issues related to legal and institutional context of migration process management and population movement, as well as trying to identify priorities for future development of migration policy among the countries represented here.

Thank you for your attention.