



*PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM
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STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
OF THE
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

TO THE

**HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

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economic benefits in the form of remittances that have been repatriated to her. The importance of remittances to many households and economies should be recognised, however, remittances in general, should not be seen as a substitute of foreign direct investment, trade; overseas development assistance and debt relief. Policies should be developed to assist remitters and their households by lowering the cost of remitting, remove restrictions on transfer of funds and improve the level of investment and productive use of remittances. One Professor once remarked that as long as the trends of globalisation and technology remain dynamic as they are the issue of labour migration with its concepts of “brain drain”, “brain gain” and “brain sharing” is to remain with us for a long time. In other words rapid globalisation and improvements in technology fan the acceleration of labour migration. It would therefore be counterproductive to try to halt the wheel of labour migration. Instead international community should try to oil this wheel so that its functioning would benefit all member countries equitably.

4. There is a complex relationship between international migration and infectious diseases such as HIV and AIDS including poverty and underdevelopment. A deeper research is needed to demonstrate the links between the spread of infectious diseases and migration, and the implications for migration policies and for management of such diseases as well as implications for development cooperation;
5. Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) such as the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) are crucial for fostering dialogue, mutual understanding and concerted effort among stakeholders with regard to migration challenges. This High Level Dialogue (HLD) is urged to recognise their value and to encourage cooperation among them.

Managing migration is a very daunting task for any country. This is complicated by the need for a country to ensure that those that enter its borders are desirable members of our international community, not criminals or propagators of terrorist acts. This requires both stern and, at the same time, accommodating migration laws. The legislation should be very harsh to those who have evil intentions of entering a country while it should facilitate protection and freedom for those with noble and acceptable intentions to stay in the country. The balance is delicate and needs international community cooperation and continued dialogue.

Thank you for your attention.