



**Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations**

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**Statement by
His Excellency Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola
to the United Nations**

at the

**High-level Dialogue on International Migration and
Development**

at the

**61a Session of the
UN General Assembly**

15 September 2006

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all allow me to join others by extending you, Madam President, my delegation's congratulations on your appointment to the Chair of 61st Session of the General Assembly. I am confident that with your vision and able leadership, you will effectively lead this important body to a sounding success.

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group 77.

Madam President,

Globalization has created an important partnership among the countries of the world, but it has also widened the gap between rich and poor, not to mention the economic disparities between countries and whole regions. This situation, together with other difficulties such as wars, the deterioration of the environment and geopolitical transformations, forces an increasing number of people to leave their homes. This reality requires a comprehensive approach, which takes into account not only the causes, but also the complex relationship between migration and economic development.

Angola recognizes the high importance of International Migration to the development agenda of the United Nations. Thus, we thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on International Migration as contained in document A/60/871, which provides us with useful information of recent developments in International Migration, particularly the glowing statistics on the growing role of migration as a contribution to economic growth and development.

We would like to highlight two specific issues, namely: remittances and the international normative framework.

The Secretary-General's report underscored the potential net benefit and economic impact of international migration for developed, as well as

developing countries. For many countries, the level of remittances has been considerable, growing rapidly and accounting for the gross national product (GNP), therefore having an important macroeconomic significance to said countries. Remittances also constitute the largest form of financial flow between North-South and have a great impact on improving the situation of the people in developing countries and on providing relief from poverty. However, other issues need to be addressed. The most pressing issues include the safeguarding of the social, labour and human rights of immigrants regardless of their migratory status. In this context, it is important to support destination countries in addressing the multiplied demand for public services, education, health care and housing. A shared responsibility between countries of destination and countries of origin must be increased.

In this context, it is vital to establish laws that protect and guarantee the full respect for migrants' human rights. International cooperation, therefore, should build and improve mechanisms to better manage migratory movements, to protect international migrants, to establish a normative framework acceptable to all countries concerned and to increasingly move towards a comprehensive approach to migration and development. A proper managing of international migration can improve advantages for both sending and receiving countries. In this connection, my delegation emphasizes the need to respect international human rights commitments, and Governments' primary responsibility to ratify international instruments and ensure due implementation at the national level.

Owing to the recommendations of the international community, my country is concerned with the criminality that afflicts many states. As a consequence, the Republic of Angola is fully emerged in the process of adhering to the UN Convention on Transnational Criminality, particularly in relation to the Illicit Traffic of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and in relation to the Prevention and Punishment of Human Trafficking, especially of women and children, and therefore engaged in the fight against targeted crimes in the face of the new Legal Code.

Madam President,

A closer look at the issue of international migration allows us to underline that women constitute more than 50 per cent of international migrants. Women and youths constitute the most vulnerable victims of the negative

impact of migration. The growth of the ratio of women in migration flows has been progressive and constant in the last decades of the XX century; we may say that we are witnessing a feminization of international migration. Inside the migratory process, women find more difficulties and they are subject to larger tensions. Also, the vulnerability of migrant women or migrant families is higher than that of men. Another related concern is the deep impact of "brain drain", which is more pronounced in small countries.

Despite these last concerns, we have the sense that from a global perspective, international migration has been an overall positive impact on development. However, we stress that migration policies must be incorporated into the national development planning agendas of developing countries and donors, with a view to optimizing the benefits of international migration for development.

Lastly, we agree with the Secretary-General that this High Level Dialogue should not be seen as an end in itself, but as part of a process that will continue to be carefully analyzed in all its multidimensional aspects of migration and development.

I THANK YOU