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STATEMENT BY

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on International Migration and Development
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Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we all know, international migration across regulated national borders is a relatively recent development, since it was only in the early twentieth century that the system of nation states, passports, and visas developed to regulate the international flow of people. If the first generation of migration is just to discover and explore new lands or in search of food, today's migration is often categorised as for economic, cultural, social reasons...

Migration has become nowadays one of the global issues, a dispensable factor, an active lever and contributes an important part to socio-economic development of both sending and recipient countries. Together with positive contributions, migration also creates socio-economic problems, which need to be solved, such as: migration influx due to war, natural disaster, epidemic, ... leading to unmanageable situation for all countries concerned; difficulties left by unsettled issues of illegal migration; shortage of highly skilled workers caused by migration for sending countries. Labour migration contributes to the economic growth for both sending and recipient countries but migrants however are the most vulnerable and usually exposed to abuses, their living conditions are not ensured, they are the ones being exploited, cheated, trafficked or affected by social evils...

These challenges to every country cannot but force us to join each other in this common endeavor of making migration well manageable to foster development, through enhancing good and cooperative relationships between states as well as their good practice and experiences sharing. This high-level Meeting is not out of the context. We strongly believe that the Meeting will be contributing actively and substantially to the international consultative process with a view to come up with appropriate ways and means to effectively dealing with all aspects of migration management for serving development and vice

versa. Concerted international effort to manage migration shall be therefore one of the top priority of not only one country but of all to optimise the positive impacts and minimise its negative effects.

Migration in Vietnam is not a rare social economic phenomenon happening in parallel with its economic development and often characterised by each stage, in which migration for economic reasons is the most emerged. Being aware of the role and the nexus between migration and development, the government of Vietnam always encourages legal migration but resolutely against illegal migration, particularly human trafficking.

There are around 3.2 millions Vietnamese people currently living in some 80 countries and territories in the world, in which there are about 400.000 people with graduate degree upwards. This is an important force for the country's development, the government of Vietnam always considers the Vietnamese community abroad as an inseparable part of the Vietnamese nation and encourages them to contribute to the country. According to an unofficial figure in 2007, around \$7 billions has been sent home by the overseas Vietnamese.

A policy to send people to work abroad has been established as a good step to job creation, this is part of the national strategy of the government aiming to eradicate hunger and alleviate poverty. Remittances from overseas are an important contribution to the national economy. The government considers labour migration as an important social economic policy to: reduce unemployment rate; eradicate hunger and alleviate poverty; improve life standard; create a considerable source of hard currency; create a highly skilled labour force... Every year, Vietnam has about 1.2 millions people entering labour age, this is a potential force to make the government's strategy possible.

Vietnam has been sending workers abroad since 1991 and the number is increasing with an average of 50.000 workers a year, in the year 2007 alone there is 85.000 workers, the same number in 2008. There are currently around 480.000 Vietnamese contract workers working in more than 40 countries and territories in the world, remittances sent home by workers contribute significantly to the well-being of their family. Vietnam's foreign labour market is expanding from traditional Eastern European countries to North East Asia, South East Asia, West Asia, the Middle East...

The Government of Vietnam attaches great importance to international cooperation in this regard. Vietnam has signed so far labour cooperation agreements with 5 countries (South Korea, Malaysia, Qatar, Oman and Laos) and is negotiating with several other countries to send its workers abroad and to protect their interests. Apart from that, Vietnam also actively takes part in

regional and international fora in order to exchange and learn best experiences from others as well as to expand its labour export market.

Transparency in migration policy should be considered as a top priority for all countries concerned in order to promote legal migration and limit illegal migration. A rational migration policy with migrant's interests put on top will have crucial contribution to migration for development.

A priority concern for all labour-sending governments is to ensure the well-being of migrant workers and to secure the payment of decent wages and basic provision. Countries of origin must develop a range of labour migration policies to improve the efficiency of their regulatory mechanisms to prevent abusive practices such as high cost of labour migration, exploitative recruitment and promote decent and productive work for both men and women in the conditions of equity, equality, security and human dignity.

For the countries of destination, the issues underlying policy responses are to foresee their labour shortage for both skilled and less-skilled human resource and analyse their national labour market to understand the good contribution of migrant workers to their national economy and in return to ensure the protection of the legitimate rights interests of migrant workers.

Dialogue and cooperation among countries involved in labour migration processes is essential for the benefit of all stakeholders. Bilateral as well as regional and international labour agreements and arrangements are so indispensable in this regard for establishing a legal and effective framework to effectively manage labour migration for development.

Mr. President,

During this meeting as well as in other similar undertakings, we are always discussing on the need of and how to well manage migration for development. It is already high time for the international community, from sending to receiving countries, to concentrate their joint efforts to make development in return to effectively serve migration. If migration, especially labour migration, has contributed considerably to the socio-economic development of each and every country, such development should in return bring its fruits to consolidate the good and sustained migration. A joint international or regional solidarity fund for migration should be considered and established so as to provide appropriate resources to help migrants, including migrant workers in their difficulties in receiving countries.

Regional and international existing mechanisms have been set up to manage migration and promote dialogues among countries concerned. This Meeting has

created a forum for countries, giving them opportunity to share with others their own experiences, difficulties, shortcomings and challenges as well as their achievements in managing migration, so that all countries in the region and in the world can find out together the best solutions for migration and development in the interest of their own country and of mankind.

Thank you very much for your attention.