



# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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**STATEMENT BY**

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**AT**

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

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New York  
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**Madame President,**

Let me join the previous speakers to congratulate you on your election as President of the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Madame President,

My Delegation aligns itself to the Statement delivered by the distinguished Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madame President,

It is a known fact that no country in the world has “all” the skilled human resources needed to run the wheels of its economy both in the private and public sectors. This has resulted in the criss-crossing of individuals from one country to another in search of greener pastures. Other movements have been caused by the political instability.

In the case of Zambia, there are a lot of Zambians who have left the country to offer their services in other countries such as the U.S.A., U.K., South Africa and Australia just to mention a few. The country has lost doctors, nurses, lecturers and teachers to other countries. This has resulted in a disproportionate teacher/pupil, lecturer/student and doctor/nurse/patient ratio. This impacts negatively on the workforce as it is overstretched to its limits.

On the other hand Zambia has to some extent relied on skills from outside the country. The fields include medicine, engineering and accountancy just to mention a few. The expatriates in Zambia are made up of those seeking greener pastures or part of development assistance.

It has been noted that the challenges related to migration and development need to be further assessed and addressed in each specific national context.

Madame President,

Zambia has played host to various refugees fleeing from wars, civil strife and political instability in the region. The largest number of refugees currently are from Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola.

The Zambian government has allowed a lot of these refugees to work and where possible run small businesses. Furthermore, a tripartite agreement signed amongst Angola, Zambia and the UNHCR has led to the repatriation of a huge number of Angolan refugees. So far many Angolan refugees have been repatriated and it is hoped that the exercise shall be completed by December, 2006. The International Organisation for Migration has been actively involved in the safe passage of these repatriated refugees. The residual load of refugees shall be handled according to existing immigration laws.

Madame President,

The onus lies with Member States to deal with the matters of migration in a developmental manner that adds value to the Economies of scale. However the measures that should be put in place have to take care of protection of Human Rights within the confines of adopted international Conventions of human rights for both migrants and the local communities. Migrants are vulnerable to exploitative processes which include forced labour, discrimination, xenophobia and deplorable living conditions. It is important to enhance the partnerships with the International Labour Organisation through which the basic minimum standards in employment and labour are adopted by most Member States.

Madame President,

As we live in the global economy, there is need to prioritise the issues of migration which will contribute to the development of our national economies through the regional intergrated processes. These priorities should recognize the experiences of vulnerable groups such as women, Youth and Children who are easily exposed to exploitative and abusive acts.

In addition to the economic development contributed by migrant workers there is need for development of instruments to address adaptation of cultures and language which enriches social obligations in receiving countries.

Madame President,

The issues on Remittances as a source of economic development in sending countries should be explored within the policies of poverty reduction and foreign direct investments. However, the earners should not be forced to do so as it may be favourable to grow their wealth in the host country. Currently Remittances transferred through informal operations or handcarried are not necessarily captured by reporting systems therefore there is need to bridge the estimates to reality. It has been envisaged that households receiving remittances will invest them productively thus creating new income opportunities at home, however studies have shown that they are used for consumption.

Madame President,

However, migrants are not isolated from pandemics such as HIV/AIDS and natural calamities. National efforts to curb the scourge should include the plight of migrants in particular those engaged in employment.

Madame President,

In concluding, I wish to endorse what other speakers have said on the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach in the implementation of migration policies and service delivery. There is need for all nations to realize the potential of migration as a force for development and ensure the protection of rights of all migrants. It is our hope that the High Level dialogue will pave way for further debate on this important issue within a multi-lateral context. This will enable Member States, Civil Society and indeed other stakeholders to deliberate, exchange ideas and strengthen International Cooperation in all aspects of Migration and Development.

I thank you.