

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS**

**NATIONAL STATEMENT TO THE 51<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
“SUSTAINABLE CITIES, HUMAN MOBILITY AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION”**



violations are some of the factors affecting the international and national movement of people, including rapid urbanisation, particularly in developing countries.

**Chairperson**

*National Development Plan (NDP)* acknowledges that approximately 60 percent of South Africans live in urban areas. In line with global trends,

In relation to international migration, South Africa is one of the major destination countries in southern Africa. Migration patterns have become progressively complex and diverse, and amongst others consists of high levels of international and regional circular migration, as well as internal movements.

The national Census in 2011 and the 2016 Community Survey reported that more than 75% of international migrants living in South Africa came from the African continent. Our *NDP* recognises that in order for migration to contribute positively to development in South Africa, the country needs to manage it cautiously. The *NDP* further signals that if migration is poorly managed, the skills and potential of migrants could be neglected to the detriment of the Country.

### **Chairperson**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises *the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development* in transit and destination, and calls on countries to ensure the safety of migrants, respect the human rights of migrants (including refugees) and to promote continental and regional norms and standards. In line with Target 10.7 of the SDGs, South Africa is a proponent of

While international migration may present a number of positive aspects, it unfortunately

the *adoption of measures to provide for the special needs of women, children and youth* This article and similar instruments have to be used as a guide for drafting relevant national legislation, policies and strategies that would address the needs of vulnerable groups.

Migration must be addressed through collaborative efforts at regional and international levels. Developing appropriate and equitable policies on migration requires accurate, up to date and reliable data. We should therefore invest in the collection of data on migration as well as making it available.

The protection of the human rights of migrants and their humane and dignified treatment without distinction

**Chairperson**

In conclusion, South Africa's principled position remains that migration, if properly managed, has the ability to serve as a powerful catalyst for development. My Delegation trusts that we shall be able to agree on practical and effective cooperation during this Session, which will enable us to address the population and development challenges that will be discussed during this week, so that we can collectively seize the opportunities offered by international migration, sustainable cities and human mobility.

**I thank you.**