



**STATEMENT  
ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA  
BY  
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MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT, UNITED NATIONS**

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*Check against delivery*

Madame President,  
Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan,  
The President of the Economic and Social Council,  
Honorable Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

Allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election as President of the 61 General Assembly of the United Nations. It is indeed a pleasure to see you presiding, and on behalf of the Group of 77 and China I wish to express our commitment and support to work constructively with you during your Presidency.

Madame President,

In 2003, the General Assembly took a decision to devote a High-Level Dialogue to International Migration and Development to focus on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize development benefits and minimize negative impacts. Several meetings have taken place all over the world in preparation for this important meeting. During these consultations, we in the Group of 77 and China stressed the importance of this dialogue to be continued within the United Nations as part of the efforts by the international community to promote a balanced and comprehensive approach to international migration and development. We particularly emphasized the need to build partnerships and to ensure coordinated action to develop capacities of developing countries in addressing these challenges. We believe that conducting this dialogue within the framework of the United Nations will help contribute to the strengthening of the multilateral system.

In 2005, the High-Level Summit of the General Assembly that met in New York further acknowledged the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, destination and transit, recognizing that international migration carries with it both advantages and disadvantages.

There was an acknowledgment that globalization has highlighted the inequalities within and among States. Therefore, for us to successfully address the challenges brought about by migration, we would have to again highlight the need for globalization to become a positive force for all, and for its opportunities and benefits to be evenly shared between the developing and the developed countries.

The effects of international migration on economic and social development highlight the complex relationship between underdevelopment, poverty, social exclusion and migration. In pursuing our goals to meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we

The issue of remittances within the context of migration and development will surely be further debated within the next two days. It nevertheless remains important to highlight the need to address and promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances. Remittances must not be considered as a substitute for investment, trade, foreign aid and debt relief.

The need to further consider