



**STATEMENT BY
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**BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
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Madame President

On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, I wish to congratulate you for your election as the 61st President of the General Assembly. I also wish to take note of the fact that you being the third Madame President of the General Assembly to preside over this High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development signify the inherent importance of gender that we agree needs to receive greater attention and involvement in all deliberations including migration. In this light, let me assure you that the Indonesian delegation will continue to do its utmost to support you and promote the fruitful discussions in the 61st General Assembly on this important issue.

We also wish to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for facilitating the necessary preparations for this dialogue, and the submission of his report no. 60/871 entitled International Migration and Development.

Madame President,

Indonesia as a sending, receiving and country of transit welcomes today's historical dialogue. We sincerely hope that this dialogue will bring us closer to better coherence, coordination and cooperation on migration. Migration issue should not divide but unite us. This is the significance of this High-Level Dialogue to my delegation.

It is in this context, we are of the view that there is a need to understand in greater detail on the impacts and the multidimensional nature of migration. This would require the development of a comprehensive global research and database system. We can subscribe to the proposal of establishing a global forum at the United Nations, so long as it involves all member states, complement the regional efforts of governments, supported by relevant international organizations, such as the IOM and take into consideration the inputs of civil society, business sector and NGOs. The High-level Dialogue must promote the formulation of a common and global set of priorities in view of the effort

For Indonesia, ensuring the orderly flow and protection of migrant workers continues to be a top priority. We have begun stepping up national coordination efforts not only with relevant ministries, but also with civil society, NGOs and the business sector. Having adopted Legislation 39/2004 on *The Protection and Placement of Indonesian Migrant Workers*, we are in the process of establishing a national body under the direct supervision of the President for the purpose of better managing the flow of Indonesian migrants through an institutional mechanism. We are currently in the final stages of adopting a new legislation that combats trafficking in persons.

Indonesia endorses migration policies that empower migrants. Such policies should enable them to capitalize on entrepreneurship programs through microfinance and simultaneously enhance the role of Diasporas. We also subscribe to the importance of temporary and circulatory migration programs with a view to enhance the benefit of international migration not only for the host and origin countries, but particularly for the migrants and their families. In today's debate on international migration we are made aware of its apparent advantages including migrant remittances that have contributed among others to the alleviation of poverty and hunger.

Madame President,

Bilaterally, the Indonesian government has established agreements not only with receiving countries but also among migrant sending countries. Indonesia has been proactive in approaching sending countries to provide better protect our migrants abroad. One of such initiatives is an agreement with several countries on mandatory consular notification to provide assistance to migrants in difficulty. Migrants are the vulnerable group in most societies and more than this are those that are undocumented, victims of trafficking and those working in informal workforce. We are therefore strongly of the view that international norms need to be further developed to protect migrant rights in the informal sector especially the domestic helpers.

At the regional level, Indonesia has in fact conducted and collaborated actively in several regional forums, not only in ASEAN, but with other countries in Asia and the Pacific. Through informal regional consultative processes, such as the Colombo Process and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, Indonesia has taken the concept of dialogue and coordination to new levels of common understanding and action oriented activities.

To this end, Madame President, Indonesia and Australia as Co-Chairs of the Bali Process is proud to submit contributions for the HLD and future negotiations. Just yesterday, a side-event was organized by the co-chairs to the participants of this dialogue to share the experiences of Bali Process and on how to enhance cooperation with other processes in the future.

This dialogue on migration should not and must not be the end of all high level discussions in the multilateral fora. We should make migration a positive force of globalization.

Much has been attained and what remains are the hopes for some practical concrete actions that will pave the way for future cooperation, coordination and collaboration among all Governments on the issue of international migration for development for the simple purpose of maintaining human dignity, and ensuring the welfare of our transnational migrants and their families. Rest assured Madame President, Indonesia will continue to lend its support to you on this noble cause.

I thank you.