



REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

STATEMENT

By

H.E. Ambassador Daniele D. Bodini
Permanent Representative

of the
Republic of San Marino

at the High Level Dialogue
on International Migration and Development

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New York

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Madam President,

Our country, San Marino, enjoys today economic prosperity and an enviable standard of living, but was extremely poor and with scarce economic prospects only 60 years ago. As a matter of fact, most of our people migrated to countries where they thought they could find job opportunities and thus a better life: in Europe mostly Italy and France, while overseas the preferred destinations were Argentina and the US. Migrant remittances and the return of former emigrants back home were essential in boosting the economic development and improvement of living conditions of the country.

Hence, we understand very well, as a nation, the anguish that migration creates and are very sympathetic towards people in need who seek a better life, away from their native countries, sometimes risking their lives and that of their families in desperate journeys.

Madam President,

It is the responsibility of the privileged developed countries to help these people so that their hopes are fulfilled. Happiness is the fulfillment of hope. Accepting migrants in an environment that is not ready to provide adequate education, health care, jobs and, most importantly, social integration, may lead to the creation of unwanted and desolate ghettos, and give rise to cultural and religious clashes, misunderstanding, intolerance and racism. Such conditions originate, on one side, breeding ground for vocal dissent and violent protest, on the other side, for selfishness and prejudice. It is our duty as members of the UN family, not only to respond to any such crisis, but - more importantly - to make efforts to prevent them.

Madam President,