

**Statement by His Excellency Major General Shavendra Silva
Ambassador and Chargé d Affaires of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York**

FORTY SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

New York, 22nd April 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Let me congratulate you on your appointment to this important Committee.

We hope that this session on the theme “New trends in migration: demographic aspects” would provide a comprehensive framework, including useful inputs, for the second High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be held in the UN General Assembly this year. My delegation notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary General on this theme, which provides valuable information and serves as a guide for our deliberations during the session.

Sri Lanka associates itself of civilization. Some humans moved voluntarily while others were to new lands. Today, it has become an issue because of national boundaries

tions on free movement, economic circumstances as well as climate change. Globalization, particularly the eased travel, connectivity induced by communication technologies, economic opportunities and political circumstances, had created many reasons for citizens to cross national boundaries both legally and illegally. We must not forget that many developed economies of today were built by the contributions of such migrants.

Migration of transnational workers has shown a remarkable increase and is continuing. Therefore, it is imperative to consider a set of broader development objectives. Almost all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, have clear

children of migrant mothers. Accordingly, special laws have been enacted to facilitate legal protection for children up to 18 years. The National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) has set up a special desk at the Bandaranaike International Airport to register the details of children of migrant mothers traveling overseas for employment. The NCPA is also formulating a system to enable migrant mothers to contact their children while being employed abroad. These provisions may be further amended and strengthened.

A special agency – the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau (SLBFE) has been established and operates under the Ministry Foreign Employment and Welfare. Every Sri Lankan leaving for employment outside Sri Lanka must register with this Bureau. We have strengthened most of our overseas Missions with Welfare Officers to help migrant workers.

Sri Lanka facilitates the welfare of all migrants and has taken measures to ensure their basic rights, including education and health. In 2009, Sri Lanka formulated the National Policy on Labour Migration with wide stakeholder consultations. There are strict policy measures and laws regarding employment of minors. To minimize the costs of social impact on migrant worker families, the Government has launched a project to encourage children to continue their education through a scholarship scheme. Another project was initiated to identify services needed by families of migrant workers such as health services, educational facilities and

Development at the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly in 2013. We commend your efforts under the CPD to mainstream migrants' issues in the dialogue on population and development.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.