



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA  
BY MR V MADONSELA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AT THE SEVENTH MEETING**

**SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

We also wish to reiterate that there is no question regarding the primary responsibility of the State for the welfare of its people, and the Group of 77 and China remains committed to taking bold steps in the fight against poverty and hunger. The ability of developing countries to do so is hampered by other imperatives. Speedier and deeper debt relief, along with increased flows of ODA, and fairer terms of trade will further enable developing countries to make greater progress in meeting their needs and hopes for a better future.

Chairperson,

In today's debate, we would like to focus our intervention on the following three issues, i.e. the development potential offered by migration, the human rights of people who migrate, and the Millennium Development Goals.

Firstly, the world that we live in today offers great opportunities for human resources

development, skills and knowledge transfer, trade, and enhanced income distribution between countries. These opportunities will only translate into development if all people can gain reasonable access to them. However, the persistence of inequality within and

regard. The migration of skilled persons from developing countries leads to a drain in expertise and deprives their populations of the much needed human resources. Other countries benefit from the movement of highly skilled, particularly young productive people. It is for this reason that we should seek ways to encourage the circulation of

expertise through the Diasporas by creating better knowledge through the use and transfer

Chairperson,

The G77 and China has noted with concern in the report of the SG that resources directed towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference