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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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20th session of the Committee on Development

Development

Agenda Item 3 / 4

Switzerland would like to thank the Secretary General for his informative and

comprehensive reports on international migration and development. Indeed, international migration flows not only bring complex challenges, they also present us with opportunities to further the aims of development.

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was the first

global conference to embrace migration as a development force rather than a

year in the mid-1990s to approximately 10,000 per year today. The annual recognition rate of refugees is relatively stable at approximately 10%.

Moreover the skill level of immigrants to Switzerland has changed in the last years. Today, 50% of all newcomers are highly skilled migrants, mainly from developed countries but - to a lesser degree - also from developing countries. This shift is - inter alia - linked to the phasing out of the seasonal workers program which brought many low qualified migrants to Switzerland.

The integration of long term migrants in the Swiss society has proved to be successful. Many descendants of migrants are "over-performers" with high upward mobility. Spatial segregation of immigrants in the metropolitan areas of Switzerland remains low. However, major integration challenges exist, such as the better

integration of certain migrant groups in the labour market. Switzerland has recently changed its legislative framework to strengthen integration policies

was one of the five countries to initiate the Global Commission on International Migration.

At the bilateral level, the search for more comprehensive migration management strategies led to the development of the concept of "migration partnerships".

Migration partnerships place migration management at the heart of bilateral