



Madam President,

Thank you for giving me the floor, my delegation would like to join others in congratulating you on your assumption as chair person of this important gathering. Madam President, international migration puts a human face to globalization. It defines and represents the global structure that divides the world between the industrialized north and the developing south. It is important to note that flow of migrants from the Southern hemisphere to the North, is due to the demographic and social structure of the industrialized world and the need for workers.

Solomon Islands values the meeting as it provides an opportunity to ensure there is a mechanism to measure and match the supply and demand of the global labour market as argued by the International Organization for Migration including the Group of 77.

Madam President, Solomon Islands as a Small Islands Developing State with Least Developed Country status attach much importance to the subject under discussion, it provides a developmental opportunity that if not well managed it becomes a security concern both for the receiving and sending states. Migration in other words is an integral part of achieving the MDGs.

Madam President,

At national level Solomon Islands is made up of half a million people that speaks more than eighty different languages, it has embraced the rich cultural diversity hence inter-island migration is an economic issue. The pull factor in all migration routes be it internal or external is related to economic gains. Movement of population tends to be where economic activities are located. The challenge is in balancing the participation of migrant workers and the indigenous population. To leave anyone a spectator to development, could see instability setting in, as in the recent experience by Solomon Islands couple of years back during its ethnic conflict. In this connection the High Level Meeting must take into account the

