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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Md. Lutfor Rahman Khan (Azad)
Hon'ble Minister of State

Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

at

the High-level Dialogue on
International Migration and Development

New York, 14 September 2006

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Madam President,

ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. The exclusive mandate of this Ministry is to secure welfare of the expatriate workers and enhancement of the overseas employment.

The Government of Bangladesh is constantly engaged in promoting a mechanism of managed migration. Recently the Government of Bangladesh has adopted a comprehensive "Overseas Employment Policy". This policy is focused on protecting rights of the expatriate workers at home and abroad, preserving the existing market and exploring newer job markets, and welfare of the expatriates. This gender-sensitive policy has been drafted in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The Government is in constant collaboration with the civil society, NGOs and the private sector to forge a holistic approach to ensure a properly managed migration.

Bangladesh is committed to ensuring safe migration opportunities for its people. Steps are being undertaken to extend pre-departure orientation and pre-employment training for potential migrants. Efforts are being made to expand the migration welfare funds so that they are utilized for the benefit of migrant workers. New opportunities are being created particularly for female migrant workers.

Madam President,

Bangladesh would seek a regime to facilitate the movement of temporary service providers, under Mode 4 of GATS. We all recognize the immense potential in this field, which may exceed the benefits of trade in merchandise goods under complete liberalization. We urge the international community to undertake expeditious measures for liberalization of markets for the movement of service providers under Mode 4. It can also contribute to addressing the challenges of migrants smuggling and trafficking in persons.

I take this opportunity to put forward a proposal to this august gathering. All members of the labour sending countries can set up a negotiating forum for furthering the case of movement of service providers. We look forward to the favourable consideration of this idea by the Hon'ble Ministers and distinguished delegates.

Madam President,

Migration has now become a global phenomenon and warrants a comprehensive solution. We need a normative framework to achieve effective international coordination and enhanced cooperation among all stakeholders. A Properly managed international migration holds enormous potential for the development. The momentum generated through this high-level dialogue must be nurtured to set the foundation for enhanced international cooperation in optimizing the benefits of migration. We should not miss this opportunity.

I thank you Madam President.