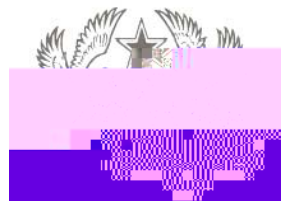


GHANA



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STATEMENT

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AT THE

61ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT,

14-15 SEPTEMBER, 2006

New York, 14th September, 2006

MR. CHAIR,

Migration is a fundamental feature of today's world and demands attention at the

impacts on a wider scale beyond the immediate household level. Ghana has made very important strides in this regard. Indeed the current real estate boom in Ghana can be attributed to the increases in remittances over the last five years, from a low of \$300 million in 2002 to about \$1.2 billion in 2005.

But despite these huge increases in remittances most countries of origin are still struggling with how to effectively harness the capital created for national development. Initiatives encouraging migrants to return to their country of origin to share their knowledge, expertise and experiences have yielded positive results. Ghana for instance, has made efforts to reach out to its diaspora community to encourage them to invest in businesses and transfer of their skills. In this regard, Government passed the Dual Citizenship Law in 2001 to enable dual citizens establish in Ghana without conditions. A Non-Resident Ghanaian Secretariat has also been established to keep a database of Ghanaian professionals abroad and encourage them to return.

Mr. Chair, in Ghana as in most of Africa and indeed the world, we are witnessing an

irregular migration and also guarantee better protection from abuse and unfair treatment