

**Madame President,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Migration is a phenomenon that until recently has not been given sufficient attention. Today, gradually, we begin to demonstrate awareness of the need to manage migration flows for the sake of development of both the countries of origin and the countries of destination.

In this context, it is essential to examine carefully the effects of migration on the development of States as well as the role of human beings In that process.

Kazakhstan is one of the few countries that consistently pursue ethnic migration policies. Since gaining its independence, the country has received more than 530,000 ethnic Kazakhs.

This year, the Government of our country, for the first time ever among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, is carrying out a pilot campaign to legalize illegal migrant workers. That action has allowed migrant workers to register with local migration agencies.

An Interdepartmental Working Group to Develop and Implement Migration Policies composed of representatives of International Migration Organization (IMO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been functioning since February of 2006.

An Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Illegal Inflows, Outflows and Trade in Human Beings was established in 2003 to promote working contacts and cooperation between government agencies in order to curb more effectively human trafficking.

Kazakhstan is party to bilateral treaties and multilateral conventions that directly or indirectly protect the rights of migrants.

Our country works closely with relevant international organizations and United Nations agencies.

Madame President,

Kazakhstan is hopeful that this High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will contribute, in a significant way, to the identification of trends in international migration and its effects on development. The issues of migration penetrate all existing borders between States and play an important role in the economies of both the developing world and the industrialized countries of the West. In this context, I would like to emphasize the importance of high-level meetings on migration being held on an ongoing basis. It is imperative to study further such phenomenon as international migration.

It is important to identify methods that will allow to successfully and effectively manage migration for development. The global agenda should include among its priority items such issues as economic growth, human development, creation of decent jobs in the developing countries, gender equality, protection of the rights of migrants as well as finding solutions to the problems of labour migration, illegal migration, human trafficking, migrant health care, HIV/AIDS and the "brain drain".

We are interested in furthering our cooperation with IMO and UNHCR on the issues of refugees.

Kazakhstan believes that, if properly managed, migration can be mutually beneficial and has great potential for the development of the countries of destination, transit and origin. The problems of migration can be solved and a further open dialogue and closer cooperation at the bilateral, regional and global levels can guarantee the success of this noble endeavor.

Thank you for your attention.