

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Dear colleagues,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this audience. I express my gratitude to the United Nations for the organisation of this important High-level Dialogue and for the large contribution to migration, globalisation and development issues.

On this occasion, I also would like to congratulate Mr. Peter Sutherland on the appointment as Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on International Migration and Development.

Our Dialogue is a great possibility to discuss interrelationship between development and migration processes. The enhancing of cooperation seeking to increase synergy between migration and development is among the priorities not only in the EU, but also on the global policy agenda.

The governments, international organizations and other actors, involved into the international policy making, increasingly perceive migration as a factor. It is able to contribute positively to the attainment of development goals.

Seeking to maximize the benefits of migration and to minimize its negative impacts, it is very important to ensure that appropriate policies are in place. We need to find the most effective ways and measures to contribute to the enhancing of coherence between the migration and development policies. Our activities in this field will be an important contribution for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as well.

Lithuania has already experienced both sides of the impact of migration to development. Our country confronts mostly with economical migration. The impact that we observe now is very recent. However, some tendencies can be already observed.

Unfortunately, we confront the negative migration. The peak of its saldo was in 1992 - around 25 thousands residents, it is about 0,7% of population. At that time the change of planned economy into free

market economy influenced the big unemployment rate in our country and Lithuanians started to leave abroad for work purposes more frequently.

Currently Lithuanian potential migrants, especially our young people, intend to move abroad for a short time for economic reasons and for getting more experience. The amount of willing to emigrate is decreasing, because of growing economy, better possibilities in Lithuania and also better knowledge of positive and negative aspects of emigration.

Emigration has played a big role in the rapid decline of the unemployment rate and in the increase of wages in Lithuania. Bui3nybim1 C



