



to the United

STATEMENT
BY HON N T GOCHE,
MINISTER OF SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

AT THE
HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT,
UNITED NATIONS

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Your Excellency, President of the General Assembly,
Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan,
The President of the Economic and Social Council,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.

Allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly and express my confidence that this High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will have a fruitful outcome under your able stewardship. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the subject under discussion today.

Madame President,

It is indeed a welcome development that the international community has awakened to the importance of international migration, not only as it relates to the globalization process but also as it affects development in both the countries of origin and those countries of destination. The phenomenon of international migration presents opportunities and challenges when examined in terms of development. It is therefore our hope that this Dialogue will assist us in our collective efforts to map out concrete and practical strategies to turn international migration into a developmental tool that is beneficial to all, and, in particular, to developing countries.

Madame President,

The perceived benefits of international migration to developing countries should not only be limited to remittances. While remittances can go a long way in improving the livelihoods of the recipient families, they do not constitute a fi

measures to address the problem of xenophobia through public awareness. Indeed xenophobic tendencies have become one of the biggest challenges of our time.

Madame President,

The Zimbabwe Government is currently working with UNICEF, the International Organisation for Migration and the International Labour Organisation to provide humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants who face deportation from neighbouring countries. This initiative, which the Government of Zimbabwe appreciates, is one example of the role that the United Nations system and other international organizations can play to assist those who find themselves away from home and in difficult circumstances.

Madame President,

Let me conclude by pointing out that to the extent that migration is the unfinished business of globalization, Zimbabwe will continue to encourage global dialogue on migration. Our considered view is that only internationally agreed strategies and programmes will address the challenges posed by international migration and maximize on the opportunities for development that it presents for the benefit of all.

I thank you.