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Official Records

President: Mr. Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda)

*In the absence of the President, Ms. Picco (Monaco),
Vice-President, took the Chair.*

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

Agenda item 21 (continued)

Globalization and interdependence

(e) International migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190)

Note by the Secretary-General (A/68/162)

Mr. David (Romania): I would first like to thank the President for convening this timely meeting, particularly at this moment, when the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals is being evaluated, and the process for establishing a post-2015 development agenda is ongoing.

Throughout this year, I have participated in numerous debates on the topic we are discussing today, in consultations organized in various formats under the auspices of the Transatlantic Council on Migration, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations. All of those discussions were designed to prepare the ground for this meeting, and we have therefore been sharing lessons learned and best practices, as well as discussing how to focus on the contributions that migration makes to inclusive and sustainable development.

Nonetheless, it is this meeting, the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, that provides the best framework for bringing together results from previous efforts, by integrating all their outcomes into a comprehensive assessment and effective recommendations. Romania, obviously, shares the views expressed by the representative of the European Union on this issue, but I would also like to underline some aspects of particular significance to my country.

As I have said in other forums, I hope to highlight the perspective of countries of origin on migration, based on Romania's first-hand experience, where the economic and social consequences of emigration are concerned. Romania has been dealing with greatly increased labour mobility, especially in the last 10 years, within the European Union. The high level of remittances has become one of the engines for economic growth as families back home have benefited both economically and socially.

However, while the support provided through remittances is widely recognized as generating development in the countries of origin, I take this opportunity to reiterate the need to recognize the benefits brought by migrants to the communities in the countries of destination. In doing so, I emphasize the need to acknowledge the importance of the contributions made by migrants to development. Furthermore, the end objective should be to increase the quality of the migration process through a balanced distribution of the benefits between countries of origin and of destination. In this regard, aid coordination

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is a structural instrument that we should consider strengthening.

In my view, that is the way towards a comprehensive approach, based on the coherent integration of the perspectives of all stakeholders and on the mutual reinforcement of various dimensions, such as development and respect for human rights. Essentially, if this is to become a reality, there is an urgent need for close cooperation among all stakeholders: countries of origin and destination, local and central administrations and civil society organizations.

While we continue our debate on well-managed migration, I want to hereby reiterate one of my strongest beliefs that it is critically necessary for actions to ensure the respect of human rights and freedoms of migrants. This is today a fundamental task for our leadership, which is faced with special situations and the vulnerability of migrants exposed to a high risk of abuse. In addition, we need to address setbacks regarding discrimination and xenophobic tendencies by encouraging tolerance, solidarity and intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

Once these basic conditions are met, we have to pursue actions rooted in principles of good governance by promoting the integration of migrants in host countries as well as their return to and reintegration in their home countries. Consequently, a full spectrum of integration policies has to be developed in areas such as the social, economic and education spheres. Access to labour markets should be facilitated in full respect for international labour standards. Concurrently, proactive measures have to be adopted to prevent migrants from acquiring illegal status. Last but not least, an action-oriented approach is vital for any progress to be achieved. Political discourse has to move from pure rhetoric to concrete steps that have to be implemented in order to facilitate the contribution of migration to development.

In closing my statement, allow me to express special appreciation for the work of the United Nations, the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the International Organization for Migration. I believe that more importance has to be placed on the analytical approach through the Forum's actions, and Romania stands ready to support such an approach and all endeavours meant to harmonize migration and development.

Mr. Erdene (Mongolia) (*spoke in Mongolian; English text provided by the delegation*): On behalf of the Government of Mongolia and my delegation, I would like to express appreciation to the United Nations for convening this second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to discuss a rights-based approach to the multifaceted issue of migration in the context of the development agenda. I take this opportunity to reaffirm the Mongolian Government's strong commitment to the implementation of the outcome of the first High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly, held in 2006, and relevant conventions and agreements through national policies and measures.

The Constitution of Mongolia, newly approved in 1992, enshrined human rights and freedom and provided opportunities for Mongolian citizens to freely choose a place to live and be provided with employment, education and health care. With the transition to a market-oriented system in the early 1990s, human mobility across national borders increased, and Mongolia became a country of origin, destination and transit. According to the 2010 population census estimates, over 4 per cent of the Mongolian population lives in other countries. Among those living out of the country for longer than six months, the majority, or 41.3 per cent, moved for employment and 37 per cent for educational purposes. At the same time, the number of foreigners coming to Mongolia doubled in 2010 compared to 2000, with the prevailing majority of those employed in the mining sector.

The main push-and-pull factors of migration can be explained by the search for better living conditions, including the desire to earn more in a comparatively short period of time through better-paid employment, on the one hand, and the need for higher skills and qualifications for the main sectors of the domestic labour market, on the other. At the same time, while human mobility across national borders was increasing, the absence of comprehensive data and inadequate management and regulation impeded the opportunities for people to engage in formal and decent employment, making them more vulnerable to human trafficking, crime and violations of their rights.

Given this situation, the Mongolian Government has been pursuing policies to ensure migrants' rights, to maximize the positive impact of migration on migrants and the country's development, and to reduce the negative consequences of migration. Priority

attention is given to ensuring the conditions necessary for Mongolian nationals to engage in employment with guaranteed income in their mother country. The Government has started implementing the Beehive programme, which encourages Mongolian nationals living and working abroad to return to their motherland. Also, we have undertaken efforts to renew the legal environment on international labour migration, with a main focus on improving migration management, ensuring migrants' rights, preventing their falling into irregular status and exposure to risks, and redesigning regulations on labour immigration, taking into account the needs of the domestic labour market.

The Government has been making great efforts to establish bilateral agreements with receiving and sending countries with a view to increasing the positive impact of migration. For instance, such efforts include the establishment and effective implementation of respective bilateral agreements with the Republic of Korea on employment and social security and pension portability. Moreover, the Government pursues policies to reach its nationals who remain in foreign countries in large numbers and whose social guarantees have not been duly ensured for years by concluding bilateral agreements and regularizing their illegal status, with particular attention being given to children and women. Furthermore, we undertake efforts to expand our cooperation with countries of destination by ensuring the conditions for a rights-based approach to migration and securing basic social guarantees for the Mongolian diaspora and those who are part of multicultural families.

Let me emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to addressing the complex issue of international migration in increasing the positive impact of migration on migrants and a country's development.

Ever since the International Conference on Population and Development, Mongolia has pursued a holistic approach to integrating the issues of population and development into our national development agenda. I am also pleased to share with members that the Government of Mongolia is in the process of reviewing its population policy, taking into consideration population and migration issues in close relation to and in the framework of the national development agenda. The policy aims to establish international migration management that prioritizes citizens' rights, national interests and priority development issues, promotes

a return movement of the Mongolian diaspora and ensures migrants' right to education, employment and stay in Mongolia.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm the Mongolian Government's commitment to supporting the outcome documents of the High-level Dialogue and express, once again, Mongolia's willingness to maintain and to call for an even closer cooperation at regional and global levels in implementing migration policies that are rights-based and free from discrimination and that promote national priorities and development.

I wish every success to the deliberations of the High-level Dialogue.

Mr. Alshamsi (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the United Nations Secretariat and all those who participated in the preparation for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. For the United Arab Emirates, this High-level Dialogue not only marks the culmination of a seven-year process to highlight, document and measure the benefits of international migration for development, but also represents a gateway to a new phase of international cooperation based on the contributions of international migration and labour mobility in achieving human, economic and social development. Adding the labour mobility dimension to the development framework and integrating it into that framework must be one component of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda, maximizing its impact and benefits and minimizing its negative effects on development, as well as enabling Member States to develop their national policies and strengthen their bilateral and multilateral cooperation for that purpose.

The Arab Gulf region is regarded as one of the world's most attractive regions for cross-border mobile labour. The Gulf Cooperation Council today hosts nearly 17 million workers of various nationalities, who have contributed and continue to contribute to the development of our national economies, as well as to the economies of the countries of origin, where, according to World Bank estimates, their annual remittances are approximately \$80 billion. In addition to those contributions, our efforts should focus on ensuring that the development impact of labour mobility is enjoyed by all stakeholders, including workers and their family members and the domestic social context in their countries of origin, thereby bringing about comprehensive and sustainable development in those countries of origin.

The international Dialogue that was launched in 2006, and that continued and grew through the Global Forum on Migration and Development, has reached a key conclusion: that the equitable and sustainable maximization of the benefits of development is of common interest to all the parties concerned with the phenomenon of cross-border labour mobility in all its forms, and that bilateral and multilateral cooperation, with the participation of relevant international organizations, would ensure the success of that endeavour.

The United Arab Emirates is currently seeking, through the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, which is composed of Asian labour-sending and -receiving countries and is presided over by the Philippines, to identify ways of enabling workers to benefit from development. Such ways would include: first, reducing the cost of recruitment by supervising the activities of private agencies; secondly, developing workers' professional skills before their arrival and documenting and recognizing the skills acquired during their stay, as well as establishing an understanding with the sending countries to acknowledge those skills after the workers return to their homeland; thirdly, developing a research agenda for identifying the human and social qualities that can be developed in workers and incentives to encourage them and their families to invest part of their remittances in social services, such as education and health services; and, fourthly, developing information systems designed to match supply and demand in order to ensure successful contractual labour cycles.

My Government looks forward to cooperating with international organizations, particularly the World Bank, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in the execution of several joint projects with the member States of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue. In that connection, we are willing to place the outcomes and formulations of those initiatives at the disposal of the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations concerned with crafting the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Schmidt-Bremme (Germany): At the outset, I would like to express my Government's condolences to those affected by the tragic events off the coast of Lampedusa. They are only the latest in a far too long series of catastrophes in the Mediterranean Sea.

The German Government warmly welcomes the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and

Development as an opportunity to foster international debate on that subject. Germany is convinced that the second High-level Dialogue will be a pioneering landmark for the future of migration policy.

Commissioner Malmström and the European Union (EU) presidency have already outlined the EU approach on international migration and development. We share those points but would like to make some further comments from a German perspective.

When migration is discussed, Germany currently focuses on the tragic situation of the many millions of Syrian refugees. We are sending a strong signal of solidarity by providing substantive humanitarian assistance to the neighbouring countries. Furthermore, we have guaranteed tens of thousands of Syrians a stay in Germany.

From the perspective of Germany — a country with substantial immigration experience, whose demographic profile has profoundly changed — human mobility is an increasingly important global reality that clearly affects the future of both developing and developed countries.

Germany has shaped its migration policy in close cooperation with partner countries, guided by the fair consideration of mutual interests. In addition, the Government aims to implement a coherent policy, in which labour-market concerns and foreign, security and development matters are combined.

My delegation and I personally welcome the positive remarks of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration, Mr. Peter Sutherland, concerning the efforts of Germany in this field. The Assembly may be assured that Germany continues to provide equal opportunities for the participation and integration of all persons with a migrant background in the social, economic and cultural life of Germany. Important areas of engagement include the integration and self-organization of migrant women; the integration of young migrants into school and professional education institutions, as well as into the labour market; a wider recognition of foreign diplomas; and a substantial reduction in the cost of sending remittances, which was announced yesterday.

Since 2006, the German Government has been hosting integration summits on a regular basis. A national integration plan has served as a basis to actively support the integration of migrants, and in particular to allow them to develop their potential to

the maximum extent possible. In order to implement the aforementioned core principles, the German Government is convinced that sending and receiving countries require international exchange and an open debate over their national experiences, strategies and interests in order to elaborate a development-friendly migration policy. The German Government facilitates the transfer of knowledge through returning experts whose work is relevant for the development of their countries of origin; it provides advice to migrants who wish to invest or start a business in their countries of origin; and it cofunds development projects.

Germany is party to migration partnerships with Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and the Kingdom of Morocco. Our good experiences with those partnerships encourage us to deepen the path of bilateral and regional dialogue and hands-on cooperation in the field of migration and mobility.

More than ever, Germany is aware that well-managed migration is a win-win situation for both migrants and their countries of origin, as well as for Germany. Thus, migration is clearly linked to development and should be taken into account in the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda as an enabler of inclusive and sustainable development.

Mr. Ly (Viet Nam): At the outset, Viet Nam would like to express its appreciation to the General Assembly for convening the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, an important event at United Nations Headquarters in this beautiful city of New York.

There are about 4.5 million Vietnamese living overseas nowadays and some 730,000 Vietnamese migrants who have worked, studied and are married to foreigners abroad. Viet Nam is an origin, transit and destination country for migrants, and the Government of Viet Nam has acknowledged that international migration is a result of globalization and needs not only efficient policies and effective activities on the part of every Government, international organizations and others in the world community, but international cooperation as well. The policy of the Government of Viet Nam on migration is to facilitate regular migration and to prevent and combat irregular migration.

Viet Nam is an active and responsible member of regional and international processes and initiatives in the area of migration management in general, and in particular in the prevention of and combat against

illegal migration and human trafficking, which is the other side of the coin. My Government attaches great importance to combating human trafficking. While promoting information dissemination, we also continue to introduce new laws and regulations to prevent and combat human trafficking. National plans of action have been formulated, and a national commission for preventing and combating crimes related in particular to the trafficking of women and children has been created. The commission is constituted of multi-institutional mechanisms from 17 ministries, unions and organizations.

Much effort has been made by the relevant authorities of Viet Nam in implementing measures of prosecution, protection and prevention in connection with people-smuggling and trafficking in persons. Bearing in mind that international migration requires cross-border cooperation, Viet Nam has been active in the International Peace Commission, the Bali Process, the Colombo Process, the Association for Southeast Asian Nations migration dialogue, and the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, and in promoting effective cooperation with such international, United Nations and non-governmental organizations as the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Organization, the Asia Foundation and many others.

At the end of 2011, Viet Nam ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Viet Nam has signed bilateral agreements on preventing and combating human trafficking and protecting victims with Cambodia in 2005, with Thailand in 2008, and with Laos and China in 2010.

As it attends the High-level Dialogue, the Government of Viet Nam shares the view that migration creates opportunities for development. Viet Nam has come to the High-level Dialogue with the following views.

First, migration is certainly the outcome of the globalization and integration processes. Viet Nam will contribute to the consideration of the issues of international migration and development in the framework of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. Secondly, the Government of Viet Nam will

continue its many efforts to encourage regular migration while protecting the rights of migrants, and to fight illegal migration by imposing severe penalties for the crimes of people smuggling and trafficking in persons. Thirdly, the Government of Viet Nam will continue to cooperate on migration issues at all levels — national, bilateral, regional and international.

Mr. Taveras (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Dominican Republic is a nation with an internationalist calling that is firmly enshrined in its Constitution. Given its consistent support of international initiatives to realize ideals of justice, equity and the social, economic and political development of nations, my country clearly and fully endorses all the concepts outlined by the General Assembly at this High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

That is because our nation, at its roots, is a melting pot of races and cultural wealth in which migration has played a dominant role. As a country of origin, destination and transit for migrants, we recognize migration as a multidimensional factor that has an impact on the development of the nations involved.

In defining a migrant, one key word is “hope”, because generally speaking people uproot themselves in a quest for hope, opportunities not yet found, horizons that exist only in the far distance, and a search for a living space that does not exist in our own environment or which we prefer to seek in other latitudes for reasons that can range from love, personal fulfilment or even hunger, to name but a few.

However, this subject cannot be analysed in strictly human or economic terms. We must also consider all the factors that underpin it and the interests that are mobilized in connection with migration processes. I would venture to say that this is the great challenge of the twenty-first century.

While we should guarantee all rights, we cannot lose sight of the ways in which the international community must do so. All efforts must be made to avoid racism, xenophobia and any other form of social or political discrimination against or stigmatization of migrants. In addressing this issue in this forum of sacred world consensus, we must close our ears to all the white noise generated by a broad spectrum of interests. Some of these may be noble and inspired by solidarity and goodwill; others may serve the political or economic ends of certain groups; and others still

may simply serve to launder the profits of the industry of human trafficking, which thrives off the perfectly reasonable and justified zeal of nations and international organizations to guarantee the rights of its victims.

Nor can we dissociate migration from one of its main root causes, namely, the unfair distribution of wealth throughout the world, which brings the North and the South into conflict, with waste, consumerism and indifference over a growing lack of opportunities in general in such areas as employment, access to knowledge or, worst of all, hunger. In that contrast, migration plays a role in the search for a certain balance, and remittances provide new hope for those who are locked out of access to opportunities.

As long as world leaders fail to adopt a systematic programme for planning numerous mini-Marshall Plans to gradually reduce the unjustified realities that exist in many nations mired in poverty at levels that are an affront to humankind, migration will continue in many different forms, while the need to protect the security and identity of nations cannot be purely and simply ignored. If we start by ensuring due respect for the principle of the right of States to govern their own affairs in certain areas, that will serve as a guarantee of the existence of the community of nations.

The defence of migration will always be required, but we must do it in a balanced, case-by-case manner. In all countries of origin where the issue of subsistence and the quest for a new life frequently become a life-and-death dilemma, we cannot deny our common responsibility to exercise the well-intentioned solidarity that strengthens national institutions and develops economies. We can never lose sight of the factor of geopolitical destabilization and human drama that may be inherent in any migration process that occurs outside a framework of security, order and full respect for human rights.

We cannot merely issue declarations of goodwill. We have to tackle the inequalities that make migration flows a threat to the security of persons who are generally victims of trafficking. We would suggest that we use caution and balance in considering the matter of migration; we must avoid the irresponsible use of social communication that leads to erroneous national and international decision-making and to thoughtless confrontations with internationally responsible States that react to media sensationalism and stereotypes that have no basis in reality. Let us therefore responsibly

adopt reasonable standards and avoid dangerous populism.

I will conclude by paraphrasing Laurence Dubin, the great French legal expert, who always advised lawyers not to forget the virtue of caution, to consider all the consequences of reforms that may be posited, and to uncover all the interests at stake, because otherwise, under the pretext of promoting greater justice, existing justice would be exposed to destruction. He advised that we approach the interests of security in a special way. Security is said to be necessary in life and society, since without it we cannot have greater justice.

Ms. Telalović (Bosnia and Herzegovina): It is my great pleasure and honour to address the General Assembly today on behalf of the institutions in charge of migration and the diaspora in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

First of all, we would like to extend our condolences to the families and friends of the migrants who tragically lost their lives in the Mediterranean yesterday.

Bosnia and Herzegovina wishes indeed to be a part of a global solution in the area of international migration, and we have multiple reasons for doing so. With a view to linking migration and development, Bosnia and Herzegovina acts in accordance with the European Commission's recommendations set out in two key documents, the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility and the Biannual Report on Policy Coherence for Development.

My country's need to undertake activities aimed at linking migration and development arises from the following facts. Bosnia and Herzegovina is ranked second among the top two developing countries in Europe with respect to total emigration rate and the diaspora from Bosnia and Herzegovina represents around 38.9 per cent of the country's total population, and such a huge number of people should not be excluded from the development flows in our country. Bosnian emigrants live in almost all countries throughout the world, on virtually all continents. The key host countries in Europe are Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland; other key host countries include the United States, Canada and Australia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has therefore faced an extensive brain drain; a large portion of emigration from our country consists of highly skilled workers. The World Bank estimates that the emigration rate of tertiary-educated persons from Bosnia and Herzegovina amounts to 28.6 per cent.

There has been a huge inflow of remittances received from our diaspora, while retained savings have remained even higher. In the course of the past few years, the remittances have amounted to between 7 and 15 per cent of Bosnia and Herzegovina's overall gross domestic product. Moreover, the annual volume of remittances transferred by our diaspora is six times higher than the overall foreign direct investment to Bosnia and Herzegovina and three times higher than overall official development assistance. In addition, the retained savings of our diaspora are estimated to be four times higher than the overall volume of remittances.

With a view to linking migration to development, the following activities have been carried out in my country. We have recognized the role of the diaspora in development, and we have embedded a number of related activities in key strategic documents. The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted several documents concerning migration and development, including documents on scientific diaspora and migration-related financial flows and investment in the country. For five years now, my country's institutions have independently prepared annual migration profiles on Bosnia and Herzegovina that include sections on emigration and remittances.

In the past few years, we have initiated and hosted four major regional events in the Western Balkans on the theme of linking migration to development: a regional workshop entitled "Linking migration to development of countries of origin in the Western Balkans", an international research workshop on "Migration from Bosnia and Herzegovina", a regional event entitled "Institutional setting of development-oriented diaspora policy", and an international workshop on international emigration.

We have collected data and cooperated with non-governmental organizations and individuals in the diaspora in order to establish a network for enhancing knowledge transfer and investment projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We have supported and participated in brain-gain-oriented projects and in many activities run by non-governmental organizations from our diaspora abroad.

In the course of 2012, the State-level strategy on migration and asylum was adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and one of its set objectives is strengthening the institutional capacity of my country aimed at linking migration to development

and utilizing development resources from the diaspora for the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Within the migration partnership signed by Switzerland and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation has funded two key projects: “Diaspora from Bosnia and Herzegovina in Switzerland” and “Migration and development: mainstreaming migration into local development”.

We have tried to increase the interest of the developed countries, as well as of some key intergovernmental and international organizations that operate in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in mainstreaming the area of migration and development into their respective strategies and action plans, as well as in cooperating closely on that issue with our institutions. Unfortunately, development assistance plans in Bosnia and Herzegovina do not contain the area of linking migration to development. However, there have been some notable exceptions, such as the bilateral agreement on migration partnership signed with Switzerland.

To conclude, we hope that all of us will continue to rely on the Declaration adopted at this High-level Dialogue (resolution 68/4) and other documents presented in order to continue to make serious efforts aimed at mainstreaming the intersectoral area of international migration into foreign, development, educational, social and all other relevant policies at the national, regional and global levels. Migration is a global issue and therefore needs to be regulated at the global level.

Mr. Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to express our condolences to the family members of the migrants killed in the tragedy that occurred in Lampedusa yesterday.

We congratulate President Ashe on having organized this much-needed High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. We take this opportunity to assure him of Nicaragua’s constructive support during the Dialogue. My delegation endorses the statements made by the representatives of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and of Cuba on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

This debate provides an excellent opportunity to promote the governance of international migration, with particular regard to the protection of the human rights of all migrants, including their economic, social

and political rights, the way in which migrants and migration are perceived, and the inclusion of migration on the international and national development agendas, especially their incorporation into the post-2015 development agenda.

In an increasingly globalized world, the phenomenon of international migration has continued to grow. The movement of populations in all regions is largely the outcome of the unequal and unjust economic and financial order that currently prevails at the international level. It has forced millions of human beings to migrate to the industrialized countries in a quest for better conditions. Likewise, wars imposed from elsewhere against developing countries also affect migration flows.

The reality of this globalized world demands the formulation and implementation of coherent migration policies. More than ever, we need a framework for cooperation based on the ordered channeling and intelligent regulation of migration flows so as to prevent the trafficking and smuggling of persons and to ensure respect for the human rights and freedoms of migrants.

The contributions of migrants to the socioeconomic development of destination countries have still not been duly recognized. A full 10 per cent of Nicaragua’s population lives in other countries, and our country has one of the highest level of remittances in Latin America and the Caribbean. We therefore repeat that it is essential to ensure that the working conditions of migrant workers and their families not be allowed to further deteriorate.

We cannot consider the subject of migration without looking at the root causes of the situation. This is a structural matter that arises from the lack of a new economic architecture. While it is true that poverty has been reduced, major inequalities nonetheless persist throughout the world. I would like to briefly share the experiences of our country with regard to migrants.

In its public policies for the protection of our migrants, Nicaragua has installed mobile consulates in countries with Nicaraguan migrants. That has enabled us to streamline the documentation of our citizens. We have also signed important agreements with other countries for the return of Nicaraguan citizens. Above all, we have focused our development policies for Nicaragua’s men and women on initiatives aimed at incorporating them into the country’s development and to substantially improving their standard of living

through public investment policies, free education and health systems, and direct foreign investment with an economic growth rate of 5 per cent in recent years.

All of this has redounded to the great benefit of our population, as reflected in the decline in our population that needs to emigrate and in the return of many Nicaraguan citizens. Those are just a few of our good practices, but much more needs to be done together with the international community. Concretely, we need to recognize the relevance of migration to the three pillars of sustainable development and to adequately incorporate it into the United Nations post-2015 development agenda by establishing clear goals.

To conclude, I reiterate that without political will we cannot effectively tackle this theme. In the sphere of cooperation, the States Members of the United Nations will need to contribute effectively in order to protect all migrants.

Mr. Caramitsos Tzieras (Greece): Let me begin by thanking the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting. We firmly believe that this High-level Dialogue constitutes a constructive exchange of views and ideas on this important international issue.

Greece aligns itself with the statement on migration and development made yesterday by the observer of the European Union. In that framework, I would like to add a few remarks on the issue under discussion.

Migration and development are closely interlinked. The challenges of the development aspect of migration are numerous, and it is vital to put the necessary measures in place to successfully deal with them. Effectively managed migration can have a positive impact on origin and host countries alike, and cooperation in that area among Governments, civil society, the private sector and international organizations is essential. The international community must also fight the root causes of illegal migration by promoting security and balanced development globally. In that respect, we support the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda.

Greece and the whole of Europe continue to deal with significant migration flows while undergoing a serious economic and financial crisis with local, regional and global dimensions. My country in particular borders on regions that face serious geo-economic and geopolitical problems. Greece confronts the challenges caused by illegal migration with decisiveness, while at the same

time dealing with an unprecedented financial crisis. In that context, Greek policy is based mainly on the several axes.

First, Greece tackles legal and illegal migration by promoting integration measures regarding the labour market, the education system and social security structures, as well as through the efficient management of immigration flows, while respecting the dignity of migrants and asylum requirements, policies and practices in that respect. Secondly, Greek policy is based on specific short- and long-term measures that demonstrate our commitment to implementing them despite emerging challenges.

Lastly, Greece promotes a policy of cooperation with the principal actors involved in preventing illegal migration. They include the European Union (EU), where Greece participates actively in the European framework that deals with illegal immigration and the integration of legal immigrants. In that regard, Greece recognizes that migration mobility contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and that and related issues will be a priority during Greece's forthcoming presidency of the EU, in the first half of 2014.

Greece also cooperates with international organizations and acknowledges their contributions, especially the contribution of the United Nations, to achieving the MDGs, and in that regard emphasizes the role of the Global Forum for Migration and Development; with civil society and non-governmental organizations, many of which have contributed to the more efficient and effective management of legal migration; with countries of transit; and, finally, with the countries of origin of illegal immigrants, which must join in the efforts needed to deal successfully with this universal challenge.

We call for the creation of a policy framework that will facilitate migrants' readmission to their home countries; at the same time, we believe strongly that illegal migration should be dealt with in a humane but effective manner. European and national legislation provides the necessary framework for managing migrants in an orderly and legal way that is designed to successfully integrate them into European society.

I would like to conclude by saying that Greece is fully committed to cooperating with all relevant actors at the national, regional and international levels, and to finding the best ways to maximize the benefits of

migration and tackle its challenges effectively in line with the relevant EU policies.

Mr. Al-Quhali (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would first like to offer my sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims who died in the Lampedusa accident, for whom we ask for God's mercy.

We support the statement delivered by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (see A/68/PV.25).

Migration, an ancient humanitarian phenomenon that has existed since time immemorial, brings together peoples and cultures by integrating them into the social fabric. Migrants are ambassadors of peace for their countries who bring their culture with them. We believe that migration can be a way of reducing violence, increasing stability and narrowing economic gaps.

The Arab Spring that a number of Arab countries, including Yemen, have experienced did not arise out of a lack of legislation or scant respect for rights and obligations; it was, rather, an issue of the awakening of a generation of unemployed young people living in extreme poverty. There exist various types of terrorists, such as Al-Qaida and other extremists, who fuel violence and hatred and exploit young people in order to carry out a policy of destruction, which becomes possible owing to poverty and unemployment. Of Yemen's many current problems, the major one is unemployment, due in part to the nearly one and a half million refugees from the Horn of Africa, who have fled the situation of war in their countries, which has resulted in near-total destruction. Despite the scarcity of resources, the Yemeni political leadership has done all it can to help these young people and to protect their humanity and dignity.

In that regard, I cannot fail, on behalf of my country's leaders, to warmly thank and commend the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration for their assistance to those displaced in Yemen. We hope that the international community and our donor countries will continue to contribute to the development programmes and plans aimed at tackling the various economic, social and political challenges that have resulted from political conflicts and policies of submission, as well as the crisis that began in 2011. For, without the efforts and help of the international community, and in particular of the United Nations and the Security Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council and Saudi Arabia under the auspices of the house of

Al-Saud, Yemen would have become the victim of a civil war that would have destroyed the country.

At the national level, despite difficulties and negative factors, we have developed a positive and modern system for regulating safe and legal migration. We have also set up training programmes for foreign workers, and we are coordinating efforts with various entities to tackle illegal migration and human trafficking. The Minister in charge of migration has eliminated the fees that were unfairly imposed on migrant workers, and we have established social-protection laws in the areas of planning and investment. Offices responsible for the interests of migrant workers will soon be established in missions abroad; furthermore, we have also set up a national council for foreigners and an assistance bureau for foreign and Yemeni workers, in which investors will participate. A database is also being developed, and we are preparing for the fourth of the conferences of foreign workers that are held every four years. A special television channel is also being created for migrant workers to address their needs.

Yemen is also a country of origin for many migrant workers in many countries around the world. Their participation in the life and society of those countries is recognized as an important factor in development. Yemen, at this stage of its modern transition period, hopes that this High-level Dialogue will result in solutions worthy of the General Assembly for dealing with the great challenges in connection with migrants. The first of these challenges is to supervise and organize legal migration and employment. Secondly, we hope to see foreign and migrant workers' rights and those of their families protected, in accordance with the norms and standards of national and international laws. Thirdly, we also want to see an improved development process that will help to create opportunities and to solve the economic problems in the countries that export migrant workers.

Mr. Mushy (United Republic of Tanzania): Our two-day High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development is clear testimony to our collective recognition of the role that migration and migrants play in the development of their countries of origin, transit and destination. Through this meeting, and many that preceded it, we have once more elevated the issue of international migration to the top of the global development agenda. The timing of the meeting is also opportune, given the ongoing consultations on the post-2015 development agenda.

In our view, this High-level Dialogue should clarify and establish clear linkages between migration and development in the context of the future development agenda. We are fully cognizant of the challenges lying ahead in integrating the issue of migration in the future sustainable development goals, owing to its complex nature, but we are confident that through this two-day dialogue and subsequent debates, we will find a workable solution.

The report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda recognizes the contribution of migrants and migration to the economic well-being of their countries of destination and origin. It is thus our firm belief that orderly migration can and does contribute to poverty eradication at the household, familial, societal and national levels; increases human capital; and provides a multiplier effect in local economies. Migrants can also transfer skills, expertise, technology and cultural norms and knowledge, including traditional knowledge, to their countries of origin or destination.

It is out of that recognition that our Government has initiated processes that are intended to improve the well-being of our diaspora community in order to allow them to participate more effectively in the socioeconomic development of their home countries, including through direct remittances and investments. Those efforts are spearheaded by the Diaspora Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

In addition, we have developed an action plan on migration-related issues for the 2012-2016 term, which focuses on building institutional capacity, setting up national consultation processes, enhancing dialogue between regional and national bodies, identifying and filling of data gaps, and formulating migration and border-management strategies. The plan further indicates ways of strengthening the internal coordination among Government authorities working on migration-related issues.

Tanzania is among the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States that are currently implementing the Intra-ACP Migration Facility pilot from 2011 to date. The main objective of the Facility is to support the mainstreaming of migration issues into national development policies and strategies. Through ACP support, Tanzania has established a national consultative committee on migration composed of

Government entities, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Currently, we are working on developing a national migration and development policy.

Migrants are increasingly on the move, flowing in and out of our borders in search of a better life. Such movements can place a huge strain on the receiving countries, especially those with fragile economies. International assistance is indispensable in those circumstances. But even more imperative is the existence of a policy environment permitting the humane treatment of migrants, including the regularization of illegal migrants to enable them to participate freely in development endeavours in the countries of their residence.

The international community needs to understand and appreciate national and regional complexities and peculiarities when dealing with international migration and development. Countries like my own, Tanzania, which is both a transit and destination country for migrants, face a myriad of challenges ranging from armed criminality, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons to the violation of wildlife and conservation rules and regulations, in particular logging and poaching. Most countries that are surrounded by conflict or war-prone countries experience the same situation. Each Government therefore must be given ample space to determine its migration policies and priorities consistent with its geopolitical location and international standards. There is no one-size-fits-all policy in that regard.

I wish to underscore that the interconnection between migration and development is crucial in realizing the optimal potential of globalization. Migrants' contributions to development heavily depend on the creation of an enabling environment for migrants to invest, for their own development and for their countries. We must strive to build and promote sustainable migration, one which will complement the post-2015 development agenda. Despite our support for the outcome of this Dialogue, my delegation feels strongly that the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (resolution 68/4) lacks focus and the clear linkage between migration and development in the context of a post-2015 development framework. It is imperative, therefore, that we continue our consultations on the subject to ensure that we have a clear picture of the role of migration in future development.

Yesterday and today, we have heard many delegations express their condolences and sympathies to those who lost their loved ones in the recent tragedy. If we are serious, as Members of the United Nations, we must act and act now. We must show our sympathy and condolences in action. We must unite our efforts to ensure that international migration and development take a proper seat in the post-2015 development agenda. We must have a clearly defined objective and goal that must be and should be included in the post-2015 development agenda. Short of that, the loved ones of those who lost their lives yesterday, coincidentally just as we began our High-level Dialogue — particularly women, children and pregnant women — will judge us harshly.

Finally, I wish to associate my statement with the statements made by representatives of Fiji, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and of Benin, speaking on behalf of the least developed countries (see A/68/PV.25).

Mr. Calderón (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Government of Colombia, I wish to extend our greetings to all members of the Assembly. Colombia welcomes the holding of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, organized by the United Nations, as an appropriate forum for discussing the main aspects of international migration.

Colombia recognizes and welcomes the important considerations put forward in the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (resolution 68/4), such as recognition of the contribution of migrants to the development of countries of destination, origin and transit, and of the need to effectively promote and protect the human rights and freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status.

For Colombia, it is clear that migration governance is not confined to unilateral policies, but must be a commitment based on international cooperation in order to achieve the adoption of a binding, multilateral instrument in the form of an international convention on migration. In that context, Colombia wishes to draw attention to the progress that has been made in terms of regional level cooperation, particularly in the strengthening of measures intended to ensure respect for the human rights of migrants in the context of the South American Conference on Migration, of which Colombia currently serves as interim President.

Historically, Colombia has been a country of origin for migrants. However, for the past decade the country has experienced a substantial increase in the number of migrants arriving in Colombia with the intent of remaining. In addition, its geographical position has made it a transit country for irregular migrants and victims of international trafficking networks. As a result, Colombia has been strengthening its institutions to deal with the phenomenon of migration, and we now have a legal framework that criminalizes the trafficking and smuggling of migrants and, most importantly, creates mechanisms to assist victims and to promote respect for their rights. We also have a law establishing a national migration system that coordinates Government efforts with those of legislative authorities and civil society. Additionally, we have a law that regulates the return policy applying to Colombian migrants abroad.

In terms of immigration control at the institutional level, Colombia has been implementing a new model for migration management based on three basic pillars: service, security and human rights. We wish to share this model as a best practice, giving a human face to the issue of care for migrants. Our model proposes a new immigration authority that is geared towards facilitating services, in particular providing care and guarantees to those who are in vulnerable situations as victims of human trafficking or smuggling, and constantly monitoring, at the institutional level, the migration situation. This has allowed us to adopt a public policy and strengthen the relevant institutions. Within this framework, we have created a migrant network to coordinate the efforts of various Government agencies, in addition to an initiative being developed by various non-governmental organizations to provide assistance and support to migrants.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight and publicly recognize the support that Colombia receives from the International Organization for Migration in the development and implementation of policies relating to migration and institutional strengthening within a new approach to the issue of migration in Colombia.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, Cameroon aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at this High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (see A/68/PV.25).

We also share the emotion, pain and sympathy that have been unanimously expressed from this rostrum

following the worst migration tragedy to date, which occurred yesterday in the Mediterranean. It was a timely reminder of the importance of the General Assembly's decision to place the issue of international migration and development at the top of its agenda for its sixty-eighth session. The High-level Dialogue will allow us to consolidate the foundations of a better-coordinated and fruitful international cooperation in the management of migration flows, which began at the first High-level Dialogue, held on 14 and 15 September 2006 in New York, during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

Today, at a time of unprecedented human mobility, we have a good opportunity to improve governance in the field, especially by capitalizing on the positive links between migration and socioeconomic development, taking practical measures to ensure that migration better serves the process of development and the protection of the human rights of all migrants, including the issue of their rights in development programmes at the national and global level.

While the main reason behind the decision to emigrate is the search for social betterment, the immense opportunities arising from globalization and the rise of information technology and communication also enhance that dynamic, sealing today, more than ever, the common destiny of hundreds of millions of people in our global village. This profound worldwide change requires us to search jointly for adequate answers to many related problems in view of the equally complex challenges that underlie them.

The migration/development equation is therefore of major importance. We are faced with a kind of dual linkage, with both positive and negative effects. Just as migration can be the result of a lack of development, it can also be either a mitigating or an exacerbating factor of underdevelopment. It is therefore clear that migration cannot be conclusively labelled as an obstacle to development, but it is not a magic wand for development either. On the contrary, whether in the sphere of migration or that of development, we must work to develop carefully thought-out policies to boost the good effects that migration has to offer in terms of development and to attenuate its adverse effects.

How can we achieve the mutual benefit of migration's positive development potential? If our approach to this issue is to be effective, a comprehensive approach is absolutely essential. This means taking into account not only the links between these two areas,

but also their relationship to other areas of human life. Our belief is that we must establish an innovative and effective partnership that is harmoniously integrated into development policies and programmes, including the post-2015 development agenda.

We must therefore include, first, the strengthening of national capacities and migration policies; secondly, the strengthening of cooperation and coordination among the United Nations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, in order to promote the establishment of appropriate mechanisms to enhance coherence and interaction between international migration and development; thirdly, the exploration and development of the diaspora's potential in terms of development; and fourthly, respect for human rights.

Indeed, respect for human rights is a key element of migration management. Effective respect for the human rights of migrants is the foundation on which migration can contribute positively to the development of countries of origin and destination. Similarly, the protection of the human rights of migrants is of fundamental importance if we want to make migration a safe, dignified and rewarding experience for the migrants themselves. Fully developing human potential in this respect requires, among other things, providing prospective migrants with a real choice of whether or not to migrate, which is another way of saying that development begins in the country of origin. The protection of migrants' rights is necessary at all stages of the migration process. All forms of discrimination, intolerance and racism must be firmly rejected.

As the heir to a history profoundly shaped by a tradition of tolerance, the Republic of Cameroon has always been a welcoming country, bringing together people from different backgrounds — hence the particular interest of my country's Government in the relationship between migration and development. Cameroon is part of that dynamic, and its response to the requests and expectations of its diaspora is based on two pillars: undertaking actions to promote that dynamic as part of a new approach and establishing the basis for a national diaspora management policy.

The Government's new approach to managing relations with the diaspora encourages the implementation of positive synergies to promote the greater participation of the diaspora in Cameroon's development. To that end, my country's Ministry of

Foreign Affairs includes a department for Cameroonians abroad, foreigners in Cameroon, refugees and migration issues, whose goal is to coordinate the development of a national policy for the mobilization, protection and promotion of the Cameroonian diaspora, inter alia. To that end, meetings are held with representatives of the diaspora through the skills forum of the Cameroonian diaspora, with a view to involving expatriates in the national development process.

While national efforts play a crucial role in the field of migration, the role of the international partnership is undoubtedly important, especially as we are witnessing a resurgence of illegal migration, which is evolving into a human tragedy. Given the limited means to curb a phenomenon whose scale has reached unprecedented proportions, Cameroon has negotiated agreements for managing migration flows with a number of countries. A first such agreement was signed between Cameroon and France in May 2011, stipulating immigration for professional reasons and inclusive development, and the most recent was signed in September 2013 with Switzerland.

Cameroon believes that any attempt to make migration a driver of development must be based on the principles of shared responsibility, mutual interests and inclusive development, and include the following actions. First, we must fight illegal immigration because it is a breeding ground for all kinds of traffic and abuse and may be a source of insecurity and tensions. Secondly, we must promote legal migration and stabilizing migration flows, including through a concerted outreach and communication campaign. Thirdly, we must accept and fully respect the rights and dignity of migrants and their families to strengthen migration management and give it credibility. The concept of inclusive development will be effective only if it offers migrants' more opportunities to exercise their rights and duties through the effective respect of all States for the relevant international norms.

Thus, given that some may be tempted to close their doors for reasons of security, while others may be fiercely determined to take advantage of the benefits of migration, we are forced to acknowledge that there is no miracle cure for the phenomenon, but only realistic, pragmatic solutions to make migration a useful tool in promoting development. So that countries of origin and destination can both be winners, a balance between the interests of stakeholders must be found. Moreover, the Governments of the countries of origin and

destination must work in close cooperation, not only among themselves, but also with businesses and civil society to pool their common resources and invest in the necessary human capital.

Therefore, inclusive development remains the key to the emergence of the countries concerned. Coherent policies are a necessary condition to take advantage of the benefits of migration to development. That means we have to ensure that the issue is integrated into the development strategies of our countries and into the pillars of cooperation of donor countries and international institutions.

We hope that, by resolutely engaging down the path of a healthy, harmonious and mutually advantageous management of migration, the international community will reaffirm its willingness to act decisively against poverty, persecution, rejection and stigmatization in favour of an effective, consensus-based political dialogue on international migration for development.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (see A/68/PV.25).

With the steady rise of globalization and information technology, international migration has grown both in terms of frequency and in terms of the number of immigrants, reaching 232 million at present. Since migration and development are closely linked, it is of the utmost importance that the General Assembly is once again holding the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. Indeed, international migration has made tremendous contributions to sustainable social and economic development. It has mitigated the problem of aging in many countries, while generating over \$400 billion yearly in remittances, thereby contributing to world economic development, poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

On the other hand, alongside migration, the world also witnessed the rise of anti-immigrant sentiments in some countries; growing transnational criminal activities, such as illegal migration and human trafficking; inadequate guarantees for immigrants' basic rights and interests with regard to employment, housing, education and health care; and numerous challenges to their survival and development. In addition, the brain drain also negatively impacts the sustainable, economic and social development of countries of origin. The

international community should consider ways and means to tap the positive energy that immigrants bring to sustainable development, eliminate the negative effects of migration, and take an integrated approach to policy implementation. In that regard, the delegation of China wishes to make the following comments and suggestions.

First, the development of all countries should be promoted in order to resolve the issue of migration at its source. The fundamental cause of migration is uneven economic and social development across countries. The world cannot build sustainable development on the basis of a situation in which the wealth of some countries keeps increasing while other countries are mired in poverty and backwardness. Countries should embrace the concept of a common destiny and strive for common development, thereby fundamentally eliminating the negative factors in the area of international migration. Developed countries should provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, thereby realizing common economic and social development.

Secondly, a fair and objective view of migration should be adopted and an inclusive environment for immigrants created. Countries should take a rational view of the different cultures introduced by immigrants and give guidance to the population and the media on the proper treatment of immigrants. Certain countries should take effective measures to remove unreasonably restrictive immigration policies so as to ensure rational and orderly flows of migration. At the same time, they should effectively safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of immigrants and facilitate their integration into local society so that they can contribute to local development.

Thirdly, international cooperation should be strengthened so that countries can share the migration dividend. Migration is an international issue. The international community — countries of origin, transit and destination in particular — should make joint efforts to strengthen dialogue and engage in cooperation under the principle of equality and mutual benefit, with a view to resolving practical difficulties in migration management, achieving two-way flows of trained personnel and technology and sharing the benefits of migration among all countries concerned. The international community should fully consider the important role of migration in sustainable development

in the context of formulating the post-2015 international development agenda.

As China experiences rapid economic and social development, it is no longer just a country of origin and transit for migration, but is also gradually becoming a country of destination. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to migration and the resulting opportunities and challenges. We are steadily perfecting entry and exit administration policies and relevant laws and regulations. We are working to protect the legitimate rights and interests of immigrants, facilitate normal personnel flows and combat human trafficking and illegal immigration activities. The Chinese Government is willing to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with other countries and international organizations on the issue of migration in a joint effort to promote normal population flows throughout the world so as to achieve common development and prosperity.

Mr. Ndour (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): My delegation and I are very pleased to take part in today's important meeting on migration, an important issue for developing countries in general, including my own.

My country associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I am also pleased to associate myself with the statement made by the representative of Benin on behalf of the least developed countries (see A/68/PV.25).

Due to the rapid growth in the global population — which, according to United Nations projections, will reach 9 billion in 2030 — economic imbalances, social challenges and other development disparities continue to make international migration an issue whose parameters we must control. An assessment of the phenomenon must be carried out, and is made all the more necessary by the fact that migration remains a vehicle of real opportunities both for countries of origin and of destination. Migratory flows bring substantial macroeconomic benefits that help increase the productivity of economies all across the board — countries of origin and of destination alike.

For countries of destination, in addition to increased consumption and the revitalization of trades and jobs that have been abandoned or neglected, migratory flows provide a labour force and contribute considerably to balancing the population growth rate. To countries of origin, the flows offer substantial potential for improving the well-being of populations

and enhancing growth. Besides the external benefits, migration generates remittances that may be equivalent to or greater than annual flows of official development assistance (ODA), standing at around \$351 billion in 2011 and estimated to reach \$515 billion in 2014, according to the World Bank.

For Senegal, as an example, remittances from Senegalese migrants, whose number exceeds 1 million nationals, were estimated in 2011 at 699.4 billion CFA francs, or 10.3 per cent of our gross domestic product in that year. For Senegal, that also stands at three times the level of ODA. Those flows, which are usually devoted to consumption and spending on health care, education, property and social infrastructure, contribute at the microeconomic level to improving the living conditions of populations and developing business. In other words, remittances are an important way of reducing poverty and are therefore significant in promoting stability and social equilibrium.

However, due to a lack of flows geared towards productive sectors, remittances have thus far had only a minimal impact on growth, although we recognize that they tend to be a more stable source of funding. To optimize that potential, my country has launched partnerships with a number of agencies and countries, including the United Nations Development Programme, the European Union, France, Spain and Italy. Large projects have been set up for Senegalese expatriates. Moreover, the support programme for development solidarity initiatives in cooperation with France has, since 2006, assisted over 407 businessmen in priority sectors of activity with a financial volume estimated at more than 6 billion CFA francs, or €9.1 million. Therefore, the participation of migrants in the development of their countries of origin is certainly consistent with cooperation for development. Besides such programmes and given their importance, it is vital that the conditions for remittances made by migrants should be further improved, particularly in reducing the related costs and lifting certain obstacles which, moreover, would reduce the amount of the flows falling into informal channels.

In that regard, my delegation calls on the advisory structures of the Africa-European Union Migration, Mobility and Employment Partnership to carry out an in-depth study of that request and look into operationalizing the African Institute for Remittances established by the African Union in July 2012 during

the nineteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

While international migration constitutes a factor of development, violations of the rights of migrants, losses of high-quality human resources and irregular migration remain real challenges. In terms of irregular migration, we will have to better pull together to eradicate the practice, which is the source of all kinds of trafficking, especially drug trafficking and illicit trafficking in migrants and persons. In that respect, my country has established an integrated border management strategy to curb clandestine flows leaving the Senegalese coasts, and in 2005 we adopted a law outlawing human trafficking.

Moreover, in the fight against that scourge, we have undertaken actions to promote migration in line with legal standards and stabilize migratory flows. To those ends, we have established mechanisms to facilitate the admission, readmission, departure and voluntary return of workers, thereby limiting our country's huge losses in human resources. As an example, in Senegal the proportion of migrants conducting economic activity before their departure stood at 46 per cent in 2011, while the proportion of unemployed persons stood at 29 per cent. Moreover, for the period 1995-2005, there were 678 emigrating doctors, or 51 per cent of the trained doctors in the country, and 695 nurses, or 27 per cent of nursing professionals.

In order to tackle this issue more credibly, we must continue to ensure that the rights of migrants are respected and that migrants are integrated and protected against mistreatment. I would like to pay tribute to King Mohammed VI of Morocco, who has taken an important initiative for the benefit of illegal immigrants in the Sahara region. We take this opportunity to thank him. We appeal to all countries, in particular those of Western Europe and North America, to accede to all the relevant conventions.

For all these reasons, the migratory phenomenon remains a fundamental topic that needs to be addressed more cogently. Aside from security concerns, we should take a comprehensive approach to establishing common and rationalized management of migration. While we commend the welcome initiative to convene the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which since 2006 has allowed us to bolster discussions on this topic, my delegation believes

we must further strengthen cooperation in order to bridge the remaining gaps.

In that regard, any strategy must feed into a process that is flexible and dynamic that respects human rights and takes into account the specific interests of countries, such as inequality in development, in order to multiply the benefits and reduce the negative impact. To that end, it would be useful to integrate the issue into the post-2015 development agenda with a comprehensive action plan that would emphasize the protection of migrants, improve the quality of statistical data, and promote the mobility of human resources in the wake of the relevant provisions of the Cairo Action Plan.

In conclusion, my delegation strongly reaffirms Senegal's commitment to investing in the efficient management of migratory flows, and calls for broad mobilization in that regard.

Mr. Yamazaki (Japan): At the outset, I would like to express my condolences to the families of the victims of the tragic incident in the Mediterranean.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who were involved in preparing for this meeting. I am especially thankful to Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development; Mr. William Swing, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration; and the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs.

Since the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development was held in 2006, various discussions have taken place concerning international migration and development. The Global Forum on Migration and Development, which was formulated as a follow-up mechanism to the first High-level Dialogue, has made a special contribution to those discussions.

International migration occurs in many different forms. Those include not only voluntary but also involuntary migration, which occurs due to conflicts or natural disasters. Therefore, it is important that we take into due account the reasons underlying each individual migrant's journey when we discuss international migration and development. The General Assembly adopted resolution 66/290, on human security, in September 2012. Human security focuses on the particular circumstances of each individual and therefore promotes the protection and empowerment of all individuals. Therefore, we think it is an appropriate

concept with which to approach the varying reasons underlying international migration in all its forms.

Japan has been supporting and implementing various programmes, such as support and advocacy for refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as victims of human trafficking in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and international organizations. Those programmes focus on strengthening the capacity of communities through mechanisms such as the Human Security Trust Fund. Moreover, through both grant aid and technical assistance provided by Japan, we promote efforts to strengthen the management of national borders by helping various countries to establish and strengthen their institutions of border and port control and to prevent the spread of organized crime and terrorism.

Human trafficking is becoming a grave and serious concern. Japan developed its 2009 action plan to combat trafficking in persons in December of that year in response to the perpetrators of this crime becoming increasingly cunning and clandestine. Close cooperation between countries of origin and destination countries is essential. The Government of Japan has been contributing to the promotion of information-sharing on human trafficking and its prevention both bilaterally and multilaterally through the Bali Process. The regional cooperative framework on human trafficking and transboundary crimes in the Asia-Pacific region is one such example.

Conflicts and disasters make the return of internal migrants to their countries of origin difficult. It is therefore also necessary for us to respond to those difficulties. Japan provides assistance through the International Organization for Migration for the return of refugees to their home countries.

Capacity-building by strengthening the abilities of individuals is essential both for the well-being of international migrants and for the benefit of destination countries. From that perspective, Japan has been providing assistance for capacity-building in areas such as education and health.

The nexus of international migration and development is one of the most important issues for the international community, particularly as it continues to experience the effects of globalization. Japan will continue to participate in discussions on this subject,

and we are ready to actively contribute to various international efforts in that regard.

Mr. Roet (Israel): On behalf of the Israeli people, I would like to begin by expressing our sincere condolences following the tragic events off the coast of Italy. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the many victims. Yesterday's terrible incident serves to underscore the importance of addressing the plight of migrants around the world.

The topic of migration speaks to the very essence and heart of the Jewish people. In the Torah, we read that God told Abraham that his offspring would be strangers in a strange land before entering the promised land. Our existence as Jewish people was born out of migration over 3,000 years ago. Throughout the course of history, the Jewish people have repeatedly been exiled, uprooted and displaced.

The plight of migrants is close to our hearts. Today's debate offers an opportunity to address the many valuable contributions that migrants can offer their host countries. As workers, they bring skills. As entrepreneurs, they create jobs. As investors, they bring capital. As individuals, they contribute to cultural diversity.

Three years after Israel became independent, it absorbed many hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe — many of whom were Holocaust survivors. One of those immigrants was my father, Haim Roet, who was born in Amsterdam in 1932. A child survivor of the Holocaust, he witnessed unspeakable horrors and lost two of his sisters and many in his family.

After my father immigrated to Israel in 1949, building a family and a new life would have been a sufficient achievement, a sufficient victory. But my father, like many survivors and immigrants, wanted more. He has devoted himself to commemorating the victims of the Holocaust through projects like "Unto Every Person There Is a Name", a ceremony in which the names of victims are recited and remembered. He also founded non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that promote human rights and community engagement, such as the Israeli Center for Social Justice and Tze'ela (the Citizen's Team Action for Social Improvement).

Migrants make rich and lasting contributions to their communities. In the early 1990s, Israel opened its doors to one million Soviet refugees. Within 10 years, the number of new immigrants was close to one million.

In just a few years, they have become leaders who have contributed to every area of Israeli society, particularly in politics, music, mathematics and the sciences.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Israeli Government supported the immigration of a large wave of immigrants from Ethiopia. Today, more than 36,000 Ethiopian Jews live in Israel.

The absorption of immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia has not been without its challenges. After arriving in Israel, they faced the economic and social hardships familiar to immigrants around the world. But in addition to language and cultural barriers, they were also forced to confront one of the most critical issues facing new migrants — finding decent work.

In the face of those challenges, Israel developed a broad range of policies and initiatives to assist new immigrants. We created an absorption basket that offers immigrants financial assistance and teaches them Hebrew. In addition to those tangible benefits, immigrants benefit from our justice system, which ensures the rights of every person — men, women and children — under the law. Addressing the many challenges migrants face requires the efforts of Government and civil society actors alike. Civil society plays a fundamental role in assisting migrants, and Israel strongly believes that they are an important voice.

However, there are NGOs whose voices will not be heard today. Three NGOs — one British and two Israeli — were barred from participating in the present important discussions. It is time to eliminate the no-objection practice that allows NGOs to be silenced anonymously and without cause. Silencing civil society may be the norm in some countries, but it should not be allowed at the United Nations. One of the barred Israeli NGOs was Microfy, which provides assistance to African refugees and asylum-seekers, many of whom fled the genocide in Darfur. What micropolitical thinking would object to an NGO that deals with helping refugees from Darfur?

The other Israeli NGO, Center for International Migration and Integration, advises Governments and NGOs around the world on migration and integration. The exclusion of those NGOs was clearly a result of where they are based rather than of their valuable work. It is shameful that certain delegations use the United Nations as a platform to further their political agendas, particularly when it comes at the expense of migrants.

The international community, together with civil society, must stand together with the world's 214 million international migrants. Together, let us reaffirm the fundamental principle of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights".

Mr. Elmajerbi (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I begin by thanking the President of the General Assembly for organizing our important High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. I would also like to express my country's support for the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The phenomenon of global migration is ancient and prompted by the need to find new sources of livelihood and security. There are so many reasons for it, including economic and political insecurity. Our High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development is being held seven years after the first such high-level dialogue and 19 years after the International Conference on Population and Development. The first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held at the United Nations in 2006, emphasized the development aspects of international migration..

Today, we are exchanging ideas on the root causes of migration, including economic reasons, with poverty and unemployment being the main motivating factors. Migration is a phenomenon that contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which in turn will reduce the number of immigrants. We cannot study that question without thinking about the countries of origin, from which large numbers of workers decide to depart because of their situation of poverty or need or insecurity. Thus, we need to consider the challenges inherent in the migration issue for the countries of origin, countries of destination and countries of transit. We also need to look at remittances, the protection of rights and duties and the question of the regularization of migrants.

Libya is a country of origin and of transit, and we have felt the negative effects of migration, because there is a large flow of migrants, seeking a better standard of living, who spend months, and sometimes many years, in Libya while awaiting the opportunity to move to their ultimate destinations. Many people arrive in our country illegally, without legal documents, Libya then has to foot the bill, amounting to tens of millions of dollars, for immigrants or migrants in transit. Libya has limited economic resources to absorb those migrant workers. There are over 1 million migrants in our

country who have been legalized and who contribute to our development projects. They send remittances and thereby contribute to development in their countries of origin.

Libya, like many developing countries, is subject to the brain drain, because thousands of our nationals, engineers, physicians and other specialists left Libya for developed countries under the Al-Qadhafi regime. By offering them decent jobs, the Government today is encouraging them to return to Libya, so that they can make their contribution to our development as soon as possible.

Ms. Lee (New Zealand): I would like to begin by joining others in expressing New Zealand's sorrow at the loss of lives in Lampedusa and at other similar recent tragedies.

New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to participate in this Dialogue. We recognize that immigration and development issues and their impact require strategic discussion at the international level.

New Zealand is, to a large extent, a country of migrants. More than 20 per cent of our population was born overseas and the New Zealand diaspora is equal to an extra quarter of our population. Right now we New Zealanders are facing a big challenge in rebuilding Christchurch, our second-largest city, following the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011. Immigration will play a key role in attracting the significant number of workers who will be required over the years to rebuild the city. Our focus in that area is on filling skill gaps and ensuring that migrants have the same employment rights and protections as New Zealanders.

New Zealand has a distinctive history of connections with our Pacific neighbours, especially in providing opportunities for people from Pacific island countries to access both skilled and unskilled jobs. In addition to our mainstream immigration policies, we have dedicated permanent immigration schemes for Pacific peoples from Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Kiribas.

Among new developments since the High-level Dialogue was last held, New Zealand has introduced a recognized seasonal employer scheme. The scheme is recognized internationally as a best-practice model for managed labour migration programmes. Up to 8,000 people annually are given an opportunity to come to New Zealand to work in our horticulture and viticulture industries. When designing the scheme, we drew heavily on the experiences of other countries,

particularly of Canada, with regard to managed seasonal circular migration programmes. The scheme also has a strong development focus and contributes to New Zealand's broad regional objectives of encouraging Pacific economic development, regional integration and stability.

As the scheme's name implies, New Zealand regulates the employers as well as the migrants. Therefore, in order to participate, seasonal employers must demonstrate a high standard of employment and pastoral care. We see the scheme as an example of a win-win migration policy. It fulfils a labour need in a developed country and provides job opportunities and flows of remittances back to communities in developing countries. It also directly supports the horticulture and viticulture sector, which is worth NZ\$5 billion a year to the New Zealand economy.

New Zealand's immigration programme also includes a successful settlement strategy that encompasses refugees, among other groups. We acknowledge that migration is a process that does not end when people reach our shores. It is important that migrants feel connected to New Zealand and make the most of their opportunities after their arrival in order to contribute to a shared national future.

New Zealand believes that an open dialogue between countries provides an effective way of addressing international migration issues and of building our shared approach for the post-2015 development agenda. We are pleased to be participating in this Dialogue, sharing our experiences and learning about the different approaches and models used in other countries.

Mr. Bernardini (Italy): It is with great sorrow that I take the floor today after the tragedy that took place last night off the shores of my own country, in the waters surrounding the island of Lampedusa. The enormous toll of the tragedy gives us a sense of the magnitude of the disaster: 111 bodies recovered, more than 100 still missing. The victims include many children, women, including pregnant women, and men — all in search of a better future. Those images of horror linger in our minds as we stand here today. The significance of our presence is to prove the importance that the international community attaches to migration.

Today's Dialogue is the first of a series of international endeavours — to be followed by the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and the post-2015 development agenda — that

collectively hold the promise of a genuine turning point in migration policies and development cooperation. In that regard, Italy strongly supports the inclusion of migration issues in the post-2015 development agenda. At the national level, we have consistently adopted a migrant-centred strategy focused on the competences, resources and mobility of migrants in a dynamic process. Bearing in mind the relevant role played by migrants as true enablers of development, Italy has launched a number of bilateral and multilateral initiatives, including the Migration for Development in Africa programme, which we implement in partnership with the International Organization for Migration. Such programmes have been used as showcases by both the United Nations Development Programme and the European Union in the context of the European Commission-United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative.

International mobility has always been an issue of key concern to Italy, itself an origin country of migrants, where it is perceived as a decisive factor of social and cultural enrichment. There are so many citizens of Italian origin worldwide who play relevant roles in their countries of residence in politics, academia and scientific and artistic fields. In our own country, a paradigm of such an osmotic contribution is offered by our Minister for Integration, who deeply regrets not being present here today, as well as by many important researchers, journalists, athletes and so on.

International mobility is a multiplier and a booster for economic growth. Not only are the 4 million Italian migrants still contributing to the wealth of recipient countries, but the foreign community residing in Italy, which has increased significantly, contributes a remarkable 12 per cent to our gross domestic product. It goes without saying that those economic benefits are twofold, since both destination countries and countries of origin take advantage of remittances.

Deeply convinced that the economic benefits related to migration should be further enhanced, Italy launched an international initiative to reduce the costs of transfers of migrant remittances from 10 per cent to 5 per cent over a five-year period, the so-called 5 by 5 objective, which was adopted at the Group of Eight Summit held in L'Aquila and extended to the Group of 20 countries in 2011. We are strongly committed to facilitating the achievement of that goal, which will grant migrants and their families a net income increase of up to \$15 billion per year. At the national level, Italy

has already succeeded in lowering the costs of migrant remittances from 10.2 per cent in 2008 to 7.3 per cent in July 2013. We urge all countries to join in that effort.

A migrant-centred approach should also focus on protecting the rights of migrants, the topmost of our priorities in this field. No integration is possible without real and effective protection of human rights. Therefore, we must increase our efforts to help migrants at risk, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, and engage vigorously to stop all forms of human trafficking. More cooperation is crucial to that end. Preventing those “journeys of desperation and death,” to quote our Head of State, is the responsibility of each and everyone of us: States of origin, transit and destination.

Better coordination among all United Nations agencies and other relevant international organizations is essential if we want to achieve an effective global approach to migration and development. In that regard, we appreciate the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which has contributed to exchanges of best practices and the building of confidence among the stakeholders.

We wish to underline the central role of the International Organization for Migration as the leading agency on migration. The creation of new structures would amount to a duplication of competences, which we strongly oppose.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is up to us to blaze a clear trail for the upcoming years and identify the best instruments of cooperation. The stakes could not be higher: the quality of our collective action, our capacity for action itself and, above all, the greater interest of all migrants.

Mr. Khalil (Egypt): I would like to first express, on behalf of the Government and people of Egypt, my deep condolences to the families and friends of the migrants who, sadly, passed away yesterday off the island of Lampedusa, Italy. That was yet another tragic accident that underscores the relevance of this Dialogue.

Egypt is pleased that international migration is once again being discussed at the United Nations at this high level, with all the relevant stakeholders. It is an issue of great importance and an integral part of the 1994 Cairo Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. International migration should also feature in our discussion in the run-up to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda as

a cross-cutting issue and enabler for the achievement of development in all its dimensions.

Migration is a complex phenomenon — it is also a polarizing one. It is about people, development, human rights and cooperation. Those are fundamental issues of priority for all of us. This Dialogue enables us to debate those interlinked issues and reach points of convergence on how to enhance the benefits of migration and effectively address its challenges. The declaration (resolution 68/4) agreed upon by consensus at the outset of this Dialogue is a significant step in that direction. We thank the delegation of Mexico for taking the initiative in starting this process. I would like to highlight the role played in that regard by former Permanent Representative of Mexico Luis-Alfonso de Alba, as well as to commend his successor, Mr. Jorge Montaña, and all the members of his delegation.

I should now like to highlight a few points. First, migration offers endless opportunities to migrants and their families and to countries of origin, transit and destination. Migrants bring with them their cultural diversity, their creative uniqueness and many invaluable skills. Migrant workers build bridges of cultural understanding. They are vectors of social, economic and cultural change. They are, ultimately, agents of progress.

Second, migration also brings about a multitude of challenges, given its changing patterns and emerging trends, such as the rise in North-South migration and the increasing instances where migrants are caught up in crises. Migration needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner that does not reduce it to a security concern. The human rights, economic, cultural, social and demographic dimensions have to be taken into account. All stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, trade unions and migrants themselves, should be involved in the development of migration policies.

Third, migrants are human beings. They should not forfeit their dignity or rights at the borders they cross. Their rights must be protected in accordance with national legislation and the relevant international instruments. It is regrettable that many countries still fail to provide adequate protection for the rights of migrants. There is an urgent need for all countries to ratify the relevant conventions, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the United Nations Convention against Transnational

Organized Crime and its Protocols, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

Fourth, greater efforts should be exerted to combat human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants. That remains a priority issue for all of us.

Fifth, more must be done to improve the public perception of migrants and integrate them into countries of destination. Too many migrants, particularly women and young people, are victims of acts of violence based on religious intolerance and xenophobia. We must put an end to that deplorable trend.

Sixth, remittances constitute private sources of financing that do not replace official development assistance. Although remittances play an important role in alleviating poverty in countries of origin and in supporting their development, the transfer costs remain too high and should be reduced. According to World Bank statistics, in 2012 Egypt was the biggest recipient of remittances in the Middle East, and the sixth-largest in the world, with more than \$19 billion out of a little more than \$400 billion sent to developing countries by migrants worldwide.

The development dimension of migration is broader, of course, than the issue of remittances. Egypt is forging stronger ties with the Egyptian diaspora. Egyptians living abroad, especially young people, are now participating in shaping the future of their country. They were able, for the first time ever, to cast their votes in elections, namely, those held after the 25 January 2011 revolution.

Seventh, greater assistance should be provided to those forced to migrate for political reasons. I am thinking in particular of the Palestinian people, who are subject to compulsory migration as a result of the persistent policies of the Israeli occupation authorities.

Eighth and finally, I would like to recognize the significant contribution of the International Organization for Migration. Cairo is proud to host its regional office for the Middle East and North Africa, and we look forward to continuing our close collaboration with that office. We also invite the United Nations to explore ways of strengthening that organization's involvement in the work of the United Nations, given that agency's standing as the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration.

Mr. Šćepanović (Montenegro): Allow me, first of all, to express our deepest condolences to the families and countries of the victims of yesterday's tragic events in our common Mediterranean Sea.

International migration, the permanent movement of migrants and the increase in their number remain a focus of attention for most countries worldwide. Migration represents a basic and integral component of the economic and social fabric of every society and, as such, its effective regulation at the level of individuals and of society as a whole is of particular importance, including for my own country.

Fully cognizant of that fact, Montenegro has developed institutional, legislative and administrative structures for addressing the cross-cutting phenomenon that migration presents. Montenegro is a country that is vulnerable to uncontrolled migration and has, at present and throughout history, experienced all three dimensions of migration. Poor economic conditions in the past caused Montenegro to be a country of origin for migration. Montenegro's geostrategic position dictates that traditional European migratory flows in the east-west and south-north directions cross its territory, thus making it a transit country. Moreover, economic growth, particularly in the field of tourism, has expanded the need for seasonal workers, who must come from outside Montenegro's borders, mainly from countries in the region. The dissolution of the former Yugoslavia and the scourge of war also caused great population influxes into Montenegro, which resulted in large numbers of internally displaced persons in my country.

For all of those reasons — and factoring in the liberalization of the visa regime with the European Union and overall economic and social conditions due to which my country has become a final destination of migrants — it is obvious why Montenegro needed to develop and undertake a strategic approach to migration, one based on social and economic dimensions and on full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The primary responsibility for managing migration lies with States. But to successfully address the issue of international migration and ensure the implementation of effective migration policies that contribute to development, regional and international approaches and cooperation are required. Cooperation, dialogue and joint and coordinated action among all stakeholders — including States, international

organizations, civil society, the private sector, workers' unions and migrant organizations — are prerequisites for developing comprehensive and balanced national immigration agendas and eradicating illegal migration.

In that light, Montenegro actively participates in all regional efforts and initiatives to regulate migration. Our priorities and, at the same time, areas of primary concern in which to concentrate our joint efforts are effective border management and collecting, processing, analysing, using and exchanging statistical data on migrants at all levels.

The integration of migrants at the local and national levels is vital for achieving social and political stability and development so that their contributions to society are maximized. We must acknowledge that migration, when properly managed, makes significant contributions to the sustainable development of countries, and therefore deserves its rightful place in the post-2015 development agenda. We have a duty in that regard to direct additional and more decisive efforts towards bettering the lives of migrants and ensuring their broader involvement and participation in the fields of education, social welfare, health care, and so on.

However, the full and successful integration of migrants can be achieved only by ensuring protection and respect for their human rights and freedoms; in other words, minimizing and eliminating potential abuses as well as the effects of discrimination, intolerance and the overall marginalization of migrants and their families, with special emphasis on women and children. In that vein, migrants must be afforded safe and secure labour standards and working conditions.

Let me conclude by stressing that it is in the common interests of all countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as the millions of migrants across the globe, to ensure that international migration is managed in the most efficient, responsible and dignified way. In that way, we will ensure that our societies become more prosperous, diverse and resilient.

Ms. Tan (Singapore): At the outset, I join others in conveying my sincere condolences to those affected by the capsizing of the boat off the coast of Lampedusa, Italy, yesterday. That tragic incident is a somber reminder of the difficult journey that many people make in search of a better life abroad.

More people than ever are living abroad today. Asia has seen the largest increase of migrants over the

past decade. The Secretary-General's report (A/68/190) notes that South-East Asia, which includes rapidly growing economies such as Singapore's, experienced a sharp increase in the number of international migrants from 2000 to 2013. Against that backdrop, this timely meeting provides a useful platform to exchange views and experiences in dealing with migration issues.

Singapore values and appreciates the contributions of the many migrants in our community. A third of our workforce is from the migrant community, and the size of our foreign workforce has increased by 45 per cent, to 1.3 million, over the past five years. Our growth and development as a nation would not have been possible without them. They make important contributions across all jobs and capacities, whether in our schools, corporations, factories, department stores, restaurants, hospitals or homes. Most Singaporeans are descendants of migrants, and so we celebrate their presence in our society. Their diverse talents, skills, experiences and knowledge enrich our society. In turn, migrants have benefited from higher wages, productive employment, new skills and a safe and stable environment in Singapore.

We have put in place policies to promote the well-being of migrants who are working in Singapore to ensure that they are treated fairly. Foreign workers are protected under the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act, and, among other things, employers are required to provide adequate food, rest and acceptable accommodation, as well as pay wages promptly. They must also purchase medical insurance to cover in-patient care and day surgery and personal accident insurance.

Last year, we amended our legislation to improve the employment conditions of foreign domestic workers by mandating a weekly rest day with the option of monetary compensation in lieu thereof. Beyond legislative safeguards, we have implemented a range of administrative, enforcement and educational measures to protect the rights of migrant workers, taking into account our specific national circumstances and aspirations.

In the preparatory events held in the lead-up to the Dialogue, to exchange views on migration and development, a common refrain echoed by Member States and civil society organizations was that migration should be a matter of choice, rather than necessity. Several civil society organizations highlighted the primary responsibility of Member States to provide

decent work opportunities for their citizens and to provide for the valuable contributions their diaspora could make if they return to their country of origin.

Singapore agrees that we Member States are ultimately responsible for creating decent work opportunities for our citizens. We need to continue to invest in sound economic and labour policies so that our citizens have the right to choose to stay or to make the often difficult journey abroad in search of a better livelihood.

It is imperative for countries of origin, transit and destination to recognize the roles they have to play and their responsibilities in dealing with the benefits and challenges of migration. Close cooperation among all countries would prevent more migrants, especially vulnerable groups such as women and children, from falling prey to errant employment agents, people smugglers and human traffickers.

We must, together, do more to eliminate those exploitative practices that erode the benefits of migration and undermine its impact on development. For example, countries of origin should work with countries of destination to lower the debt burden imposed on low-skilled migrant workers. Migration should also be facilitated through legal channels. It is the best way to assure the migrants of their rights and to protect the interests of Member States, while diminishing the scope for exploitation.

Singapore welcomes the convening of the Dialogue. A better appreciation of this complex issue will go a long way towards ensuring that we maximize the benefits and minimize the challenges of international migration.

Mr. Messone (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): Gabon welcomes the convening of this second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General.

Mine is a country of both transit and destination for migrants from diverse places. Gabon has benefited, in its development, from the contributions of migrants from brother and friendly countries in Africa and around the world. In a globalized world, migrations have accelerated, often with negative side effects such as xenophobia, racism, discrimination and tragedies such as that we are mourning today off the coast of Lampedusa. My country sends its heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims.

On the occasion of this second Dialogue on migration, our attention should focus on new challenges such as the fate of illegal migrants, the fight against trafficking in migrants, fair remuneration for their work and the protection of weak and vulnerable migrants, above all women, children and refugees.

It is recognized today that migration contributes to the development of countries of origin as much as countries of destination. Through their work and remittances, migrants help reduce poverty and advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the areas of health and education. Nonetheless, migration also creates a paradox that deserves our attention. Qualified migrant labour is a non-negligible asset for host countries. Migrants contribute to business, to job creation, to investment, to taxation and to the social systems of destination countries. However, we must also recognize that the emigration of qualified workers is a net loss for their countries of origin, which need such people for their own development. That is why Gabon has always encouraged programmes that support the return of qualified migrants to their countries of origin.

The foundation of the migration policy of my country is the Gabonese Constitution, which enshrines respect for the rights and liberties set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our policy is also based on the international conventions to which we are party. The current priorities defined by His Excellency President Ali Bongo Ondimba stress the better integration of undocumented foreigners in our country, the humane management of clandestine immigration and the strengthening of partnerships with migrants' countries of origin and destination. The Gabonese Government has always tried to ensure that the social rights of migrants, particularly with regard to health and education, are guaranteed. Of course, the right to work is consistent with the provisions of the Gabonese labour code.

We have adopted a number of measures over the past few years. In 1986, the immigration code was adapted to the economic and social progress of the country and to its demographic goals. In April 2004 we adopted law No. 009/2004, which guaranteed the protection of vulnerable migrants and refugees and ensured the struggle against human trafficking and against violence directed at women and children. In January 2014 we implemented the passport of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, allowing

the free movement of nationals of that jurisdiction. And lastly, on 7 March 2013, we began a vast campaign to regularize the status of undocumented foreigners throughout the whole of our national territory. Gabon has also established a national migration council that assists the Government in the implementation of policies. The emigration of Gabonese citizens has also led us to create an office for Gabonese abroad.

At the international level we are open to all forms of cooperation with a view to the concerted management of migratory flows, along the lines of the agreement we have signed with France. We are also open to cooperation for the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Gabon supports the Moroccan initiative aimed at creating an African alliance on migration and development. At the same time, we are mindful of the need to respond to the new challenge posed by migrations arising from climate change.

Our action at the end of this debate must focus on strengthening the rights of all migrants, the protection of migrants in situations of distress, the compilation of statistical data on the actual situation of migrants, the integration of migration issues into our national action plans, and strengthening dialogue, cooperation and cohesion at all levels to benefit migrants.

To conclude, my country would like to commend the commitment of the Secretary-General to promoting the rights of migrants. Similarly, Gabon commends the role of the International Organization for Migration and the efforts of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Gabon would like to see migration taken into account in the post-2015 development agenda, which we have begun to discuss.

Mr. Mukerji (India): At the outset, let me convey, on behalf of India, our deep condolences at the tragic loss of life of migrants off the shore of Lampedusa in Italy.

I am honoured to participate in this discussion on the important issue of international migration and its linkages with development under the auspices of the General Assembly. We hope that this Dialogue will help us move forward in advancing the global discourse on international migration in the context of the global economy and development.

My full statement is being circulated. In the interest of time, I am speaking from a shortened version.

The globalized world we live in is critically dependent on the mobility and flow of human resources. It is important that international migration be a part of the global economic discourse and development paradigm.

India is one of the leading countries of origin, destination and transit for international migration. Over centuries, our people have travelled to distant corners of the globe and have made enormous contributions to the receiving societies. Today more than 25 million people of Indian origin live overseas, and they have made us proud of their contributions in the countries where they live and work. We celebrate their achievements every year on 7 January, which we call the Day of the Overseas Indian. On the other hand, our composite culture, which prides itself on its diversity, has attracted millions to our fold as well.

India favours a holistic approach to international migration, one premised on the developmental paradigm of migration that is sensitive to the national circumstances of countries of origin, transit and destination and that seeks to maximize the mutually beneficial nature of international migration while reducing its negative effects.

Migration continues to contribute to the augmentation of capacities and intellectual and institutional resource bases, as well as to the skilled manpower supply, in destination countries. Many developed economies have greatly benefited from the talent of migrants, including in academia, business, research and innovation. Greater openness and political willingness are therefore needed in developed countries to allow freer movement of people across their national boundaries.

Our approaches to migration must be uniform and consistent, while acknowledging that policies and solutions for dealing with international migration will differ according to the different national circumstances of countries. We must also ensure that migrants are provided opportunities to harness their full potential, which will benefit not only migrants themselves but also their destination countries.

Coming from India, which in 2012 received nearly \$70 billion worth of remittances from migrants, I am well aware that remittances from international migrants contribute to development in the countries of origin. They are often critical for the livelihoods of the families of migrant workers. However, remittances

are not a substitute for official development assistance (ODA) or other forms of development financing, as is often suggested. International commitments on ODA and development financing cannot be diluted on account of remittances.

We need to provide greater policy support at the international level to the issue of short-term migration, in particular on issues related to portability of pensions and social security contributions. We must also focus our attention on the temporary movement of natural persons to supply services, that is, under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, where there is an urgent need for liberalization and simplification of procedures.

Our endeavour should be to realize a humane, orderly and mutually beneficial process of migration. A clear recognition that international migration is a win-win opportunity is therefore essential.

Mr. Kyaw Tin (Myanmar): First of all, my delegation wishes to express our deepest condolences for the loss of life in yesterday's tragic incident off the coast of Italy.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (see A/68/PV.25).

We wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the important issue of international migration and development (A/68/190). My delegation welcomes the agenda laid out in that report to address the challenges and make migration a catalyst for development. The recommendations deserve our careful consideration.

As migration clearly contributes to the socioeconomic life of migrant worker households in many developing countries, my delegation shares the view expressed in the Secretary-General's report that Member States should mainstream migration into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and relevant sectoral policies and programmes. Also at the global level, migration should be intelligently integrated into the framework of the post-2015 development agenda. We must put our heads together on how best to integrate migration aspects into that agenda.

In order to address the challenges of migration, especially eliminating the exploitation of migrant workers, we must encourage channels of legal migration

and awareness-raising, as illegal migrants are prone to falling victim to exploitation and human trafficking.

With its estimated 3 million overseas migrant workers, Myanmar is one of the source countries facing both the challenges and opportunities of migration. Accurate data and information on migration flows are difficult to obtain due to the irregularity of patterns of migration, yet the Government is focusing its attention on promoting and protecting the welfare of our migrant workers. The Government, with the cooperation of host countries, has been helping migrant workers in neighbouring countries by issuing temporary passports to make them legal and to allow them to enjoy the labour rights they are entitled to. Moreover, migration and labour migration policies are being drafted for the safe migration of our citizens.

International migration contributes positively to the economic development of host countries, source countries and even transit countries. That is especially true for developing countries, which benefit not only from remittances, but also from the technical know-how and entrepreneurial experience gained by their migrant workers aboard.

Myanmar is undergoing rapid political and socioeconomic transformation. As the country gains momentum in its reform process, we are hopeful that the employment opportunities resulting from foreign investment will attract our overseas expatriates and migrant workers back to the country. We are confident that migrants can play an important role in promoting trade and investment through their financial capital, business networks, knowledge and skills. Thus, it is expected that migrant workers will become one of the key driving forces behind future socioeconomic development of the country.

In executing economic policies and programmes, it is essential for a country to acquire reliable data and information about its own population and its new trends, especially in terms of migration. We will be able to produce the actual figures related to international migration after completion of our 2014 nationwide census, which is scheduled to be launched early next year.

The Government has made or improved regulations for more convenient transfer of migrants' remittances, which are an important source of income for households in Myanmar. We must also formulate relevant policy to

encourage the effective use of remittances in investment or in doing business.

With protection of its migrants in mind, Myanmar has joined the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and has strengthened its cooperation with international organizations in that area. We have benefited from assistance rendered by IOM by way of the safe and orderly return of our nationals who were in distress overseas for various reasons.

We fully appreciate the important role played by the United Nations in highlighting the positive aspects of migration and bringing out its potentials for development. This High-level Dialogue offers opportunities to deepen understanding of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development. In concluding, I wish to express our hope that our deliberations will produce tangible results to address the challenges of migration in a more systematic way.

Mr. Grima (Malta): Let me begin by joining others in expressing our deepest condolences to the families of those who tragically lost their lives yesterday off the coast of Lampedusa.

We are pleased to participate in this High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, as we consider migration a priority issue.

We would like to align ourselves with the statement delivered by Commissioner Cecilia Malmström on behalf of the European Union and its member States (see A/68/PV.25). While doing so, we would like to make the following additional remarks in our national capacity.

The High-level Dialogue's main theme of identifying concrete measures with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration while reducing its negative implications is timely, in view of global events over the past few years. In recent years, propelled by the process of globalization, migration has taken on a new dimension. Indeed, never before has the migration and development nexus and the need to strengthen the synergies between the two been more important.

The Government of Malta believes that to secure development from migration, it is crucial to ensure that such migration is well managed and takes place via legal means, whereby movement is transparent for the countries of origin, transit and destination. Migrants must be able to travel with full knowledge

of their rights, without fear or coercion, and with their future prospects as a clear goal. Development-oriented actions are also essential to addressing the root causes of migratory flows by generating opportunities and economic activity in the countries of origin, thus lessening the propensity to migrate.

Malta also has its own emigrant population living beyond its shores, which has been a source of economic and social growth for the communities in which they have settled as well as for Malta. The Government of Malta makes every effort to maintain a close bond with the Maltese diaspora, ensuring that they are proud and responsible representatives of Malta. The key in that discourse is the strong bond that the Government maintains with the Maltese diaspora, with the aim of promoting the highest level of cooperation between the Maltese emigrant communities and their host countries, in full compliance with the laws and customs of those lands. That, we believe, is a fundamental ingredient that ensures that migrant communities can serve as a motor for development wherever they settle.

Migration offers opportunities and hope for many but, for those same reasons, is often a source of abuse. That is why we cannot talk about migration and development without addressing the related challenges. Malta retains a strong and long-standing commitment to help those who are in need of protection and has always upheld its moral and legal duty to protect genuine refugees and those entitled to other forms of protection and humanitarian assistance, as provided for under international law. However, the rights of such individuals must not be undermined by international criminal organizations that exploit the plight of such people for illicit financial gain.

Malta's geographical location is at the crossroads of migratory flows, particularly from the South. Malta has experienced heavy influxes of irregular migration from North Africa since 2002. Since then, the number of irregular immigrant arrivals has remained consistently high. Thus far in 2013, 1,692 immigrants have already reached Malta irregularly, with almost 1,000 arriving in July alone. That demonstrates that irregular migration to Malta continues to be a major challenge. Almost all of those who reached Malta irregularly proceeded to apply for international protection, and the asylum recognition rate in Malta has consistently exceeded 50 per cent over the past years, in view of the situation in the countries from which those asylum-seekers originate, particularly the Horn of Africa.

Malta remains convinced that international cooperation on irregular migration needs to be strengthened. While the Maltese delegation considers that legal migration benefits countries of both origin and destination, it wishes to highlight that irregular migration undermines legal migration policies, further exposing migrants to situations of exploitation and even, in certain regional scenarios, to the risk of loss of life in the desert or at sea, notwithstanding the efforts of the authorities concerned to prevent such loss of life.

In view of those considerations, the Maltese delegation is not satisfied with the declaration adopted at this High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (resolution 68/4), which should have reaffirmed, in no uncertain terms, the duty of readmission of a country's own nationals irregularly staying in other States, with a view to sending a message refuting the viability of irregular migration. In our view, readmission policies are a prerequisite for well-managed migration, and we recall that States should respect their obligations under international law to readmit their own nationals and to take all appropriate measures in that respect while protecting the human rights of the migrants involved.

Allow me to conclude with a final thought on the subject of the relationship between migration and development. The aspiration of host countries, as well as of countries of origin and transit countries, to enjoy the fruits of development resulting from migration hinges on various factors, two of which the Government of Malta believes to be fundamental. First, countries must work together to coordinate their efforts and share common burdens, so as to share the fruits of human activity resulting from migration. Secondly, development, like wealth, cannot be engineered by countries or organizations. Their role should be that of providing a safe and stable environment that allows their citizens, as well as migrants, to reach their full economic and social potential.

Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago): At the outset, Trinidad and Tobago joins others in extending our deepest condolences to the families of those who died in yesterday's unfortunate tragedy that took place off the Italian island of Lampedusa.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes to align itself with the statements made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the representative of Cuba on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (see A/68/PV.25).

We are of the view that this meeting is most relevant and timely, given the great international focus — and to some degree anxiety — over the nature and consequences of migration and, more specifically, its development-related impacts on both source and destination countries. Indeed, managed migration has been identified as one of our nine national priorities for the post-2015 scenario.

Once dubbed a “rainbow country” by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Trinidad and Tobago has, from its inception, been a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants, and is therefore home to the descendants of migrants from Africa, India, China, Europe, Syria and South America, among other places, all of whom have contributed to building our nation and to our sustainable development. For many years, migrants have also come to Trinidad and Tobago from within the Caribbean region.

Significant oil and natural gas resources, a world-class petrochemical industry, high levels of foreign direct investment, an expanding tourism industry and relatively good levels of economic stability over an extended period have heightened Trinidad and Tobago's attractiveness as a transit point for migrants heading north and as a final destination for migrants seeking better economic and professional opportunities.

Recognizing the importance of the nexus between labour, migration and development, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has implemented structured labour programmes to encourage the immigration of qualified migrants seeking to reside and work in our country. Such programmes have, for example, brought health professionals from countries in South Asia, Cuba, Nigeria and Ghana to come and reside and work in Trinidad and Tobago, and they continue to make valuable contributions to the operation of our health sector. Skilled nationals of China also work in our local construction industry.

The increase in labour migration to our twin island republic, Tobago, can be seen in the growing requests for and issuance of work permits. According to our records, 18,083 such permits were granted in the past three years alone, in particular to citizens of the United States, China, India, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Canada and Venezuela.

At the same time, Trinidad and Tobago, like many of our regional neighbours, has witnessed the outward migration of many of our skilled and highly

educated nationals to developed countries such as the United States, European countries and — increasingly, in recent times — Asian countries. Many of those emigrants seek opportunities to apply their skills in an environment that affords seamless access to the most advanced technologies with globally competitive remuneration. That includes the migration of our skilled workers from our over 100-year-old energy sector to other countries to assist in the development of their oil and gas industries.

While that outward migration contributes to our economy through remittances and provides a vibrant market for cultural exports, such as music, it presents particular challenges, as it represents a “brain drain” at the national level. That common experience within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) contributed to the creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy in 2006 to facilitate the free movement of persons within our region. As a significant number of our citizens live abroad, we are also turning our attention to finding ways to encourage our diaspora to contribute to our national development.

Cognizant of the need to effectively manage international migration and benefit from its advantages, Trinidad and Tobago has been engaged in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States and the United Nations Population Fund on various related capacity-building initiatives aimed at developing data-collection capacities and mainstreaming migration into our development planning. In particular, Trinidad and Tobago was a pilot country in the IOM Data Sharing Mechanism Project and the ACP Migration Facility, which were designed to assist selected countries in mainstreaming migration into development planning. That also led to the convening of the National Forum on Migration and Development, held approximately one month ago, which focused on the themes of this year’s High-level Dialogue.

Nonetheless, while some progress has been made, we acknowledge that further development of capacities is required. Trinidad and Tobago’s data-collection capacities for that purpose, like that of many countries, are still limited. We are therefore not yet able to provide adequate and up-to-date information on the movement of persons across our borders, which would contribute to our migration management initiatives. In that regard, we welcome further partnerships and

technical assistance to facilitate the improvement of such systems.

Additionally, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has undertaken to strengthen the relevant institutional frameworks in order to maximize the benefits that can be derived from migration and ensure the safe and orderly movement of persons. Those steps include the design of a national labour market information system to collect migration-related statistics; the ratification and implementation of various relevant international instruments; and discussions on the development of a labour migration policy, a diaspora policy, a population policy and a national immigration policy.

Trinidad and Tobago commends the presidency for the organization of this meeting, as well as the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration and all relevant actors for their work on those matters.

We also wish to applaud the efforts of the Mexican Government in facilitating the achievement of consensus on the outcome document of the meeting (resolution 68/4). We believe that that is an important signal of the agreement on the part of the international community to give due attention to the issue of migration and development.

Mr. Arias (Spain), Vice-President, took the Chair.

We support, in addition, concrete outcomes of the process and look forward to working together with partners at the national, regional and international levels to address the challenges associated with migration, to develop and improve strategies to maximize its benefits and to guarantee that the human rights of all migrants are protected in the process.

Mrs. Pucarinho (Portugal): This event is taking place in a very different international context from the one during the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, in 2006. We are now at a crucial moment in the continuum of discussions on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Indeed, globalization has had a huge impact on today’s migratory movements. That, in turn, has led to profound demographic transformations in our societies. The impacts of the recent economic crisis have reinforced that reality. The changes have required new forms of dialogue and international cooperation to

be developed at the national, regional and international levels.

According to statistics from the International Organization for Migration, the total number of international migrants has increased in the past 10 years, and today, 3.1 per cent of the world's population is made up of migrants. The migration profile keeps changing, and migration is no longer a phenomenon where people migrate only from developing countries to developed countries. We are increasingly witnessing movements from so-called developed societies to emerging economies, bringing forth new challenges and opportunities that require innovative policy responses. South-South migration movements are also an important area for analysis and discussion, as approximately 60 per cent of all global migration occurs among developing countries.

Migration has become a more complex phenomenon than in the past and intersects with a wide variety of areas and issues, such as employment and unemployment, labour mobility, population imbalances, exploitation, human trafficking, gender, human rights, climate change, remittances and "brain drain", which are now recognized as being interlinked with the agenda of international migration and development. Those changing dynamics and interrelationships with other themes raise additional challenges for decision-makers all over the world, requiring a more holistic and multisectoral approach to international migration and greater coherence between migration and development policies. The High-level Dialogue is an important opportunity, alongside the Global Forum on Migration and Development, for Governments and other stakeholders to explore the linkages and promote positive discussions on sensitive issues.

Portugal fully recognizes that, when managed effectively, migration can substantially benefit both countries of origin and those of destination, as well as migrants themselves, and thus contribute to development. In that context, Portugal has adopted and developed public policies on immigrant integration with good results for migrants living in our country and with a positive impact on Portuguese society as a whole. Those policies enjoy a very high degree of commitment and acceptance at the national level.

In fact, migrants contribute to economic growth and human development in both home and host countries and enrich societies through cultural diversity, fostering understanding and respect among peoples, cultures and

societies. Indeed, exploring how diaspora communities can be better integrated into our society and how they can better contribute to development in their home countries is of great interest to us.

Following a broad-based debate with stakeholders, Portugal adopted its second action plan for the integration of immigrants. The plan involves lines of action in a wide variety of sectors to effectively promote integration, including employment, health and education, as well as themes that are traditionally related to immigration, such as family reunification. The national action plan is a reference for the Government and for administrations at the local, regional and national levels, as well as for civil society, to develop more specific initiatives, including in terms of secure long-term residence, labour market mobility, the recognition of foreign qualifications and non-discriminatory access to health and education by migrants.

The protection of the human rights of migrants remains a cross-cutting policy priority for Portugal. All means and efforts have to be mobilized to combat all forms of smuggling and human trafficking, as well as the various kinds of exploitative employment.

I take the opportunity to express my heartfelt sorrow at the tragic loss of life off the coast of Lampedusa yesterday. My sympathy goes to the grieving families of the victims.

Despite the many benefits of migration, the protection of migrants remains a very timely, urgent and growing human rights challenge. Human rights violations against migrants, including the denial of access to fundamental economic and social rights, are still often closely linked to discriminatory laws and practices and to deep-seated attitudes of prejudice and xenophobia against migrants.

Portugal has developed a legal and institutional framework to ensure safe and secure migration and the protection of migrants' rights, with special support for the most vulnerable among them. My country has also successfully implemented measures on migration management, including assisted voluntary return and reintegration, efforts to combat trafficking, migration and development, labour migration and, as already mentioned, integration. One cannot separate discussions on migration from the broader human rights perspective. That approach is consistent with the interpretation of human rights principles and norms consecrated in the International Covenant on Civil

and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

An approach aiming at a more coherent integration between migration and development also means having the human dimension at the centre of our concerns, with a view to contributing to societies that are more just, dignified and equitable. The United Nations family is now reflecting on the future development agenda, and we must recognize that important achievements have been made — as far as the MDGs are concerned.

Nevertheless, massive challenges still persist, particularly in fighting poverty and ensuring sustainable prosperity and well-being worldwide. Migration and its related topics must be part of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. The challenges are truly universal and require a unified and interrelated framework, and particular attention should be given to the poorest and most fragile countries. Finally, I would like to align my statement with that made earlier on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

Mr. Lima (Cabo Verde) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to express my Government's sympathy for the people who died in the tragedy off the coast of Lampedusa. I would like to express my condolences to the families of the victims involved in such a tragic event.

I would also like to commend the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which recalls the important need for a periodic review of our policies and actions on that sensitive and delicate subject. Migration based on people's seeking better living conditions has played and continues to play an essential role in the economic fate of nations, the rapprochement of peoples and the advancement of civilizations. The report of the Secretary-General (A/68/190) on the subject provides us with valuable information and relevant analysis. Its programme of action also offers concrete ways to improve bilateral and international cooperation and to reduce negative practices in that area.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization on their praiseworthy activities, which we encourage. It is important to note from a historic point of view that all of us are the sum of the human interactions and the great progress resulting from migration over the centuries on all continents. The impact on development no longer needs to be

demonstrated; it is recognized everywhere and can be verified. It plays a role in the growth of both the countries of origin and the countries of destination and contributes to the cultural strengthening and flowering of societies. Migration is therefore an indispensable part of the human condition.

Currently, owing to the fact that globalization has been more political than social and that conflicts persist in various parts of the world, migration sometimes tends to transmit a troubled vision of reality. That is confirmed when one follows the news about the numerous tragedies on land and at sea that result from uncontrolled and unregulated migration. It is usually seen as a common threat and rarely as a reality that we have to focus on and deal with together. The fact that barriers of all types transform some regions of the world into fortresses with borders that often cannot be crossed should suffice to convince us.

Certainly, nobody has to receive all the misery in the world, as we have increasingly heard it said in various political circles. However, the fact that hundreds of people can drown while trying to pursue their dreams in the twenty-first century is not only a shame, as Pope Francis said, but also an unacceptable event for the human conscience. The terrible tragedy of Lampedusa reminds us that young people today, as well as women and children, from areas of turbulence and poverty, despite all the dangers, despite all the barriers, hope to find a better future or even just to find work or the means for survival. Nothing can stop them because they do not have much to lose. They will renounce neither their dreams nor the will to succeed. They represent a force, as Victor Hugo said, that cannot be stifled or stopped. So we must deal with the issue together, and all decisive actions should be pooled in a coordinated fashion. If there is an area in which multilateralism has real meaning, it is that one. We believe, as others have said, that it is time to agree on a global, long-term strategy to manage migration and the ever-increasing globalized and interdependent world where unilateral action is of little use.

Lampedusa has become a cemetery for the hopes of African youth. It is up to all of us, primarily Africans, to ensure that death is not the destiny of migrant travellers and that we act together, both Africans and Europeans, to find the ways and means to find a lasting solution that prevents such a tragedy from taking place again. We cannot allow such unmanaged migration to continue, if we are to remain a credible international

Organization and if we really believe in solidarity in development.

In 1999, there were 155 million migrants in the world; now, according to recent data, there are 232 million human beings in that situation. As we prepare the sustainable development goals for the post-2015 agenda, we must take into account the undeniable reality of international migration and, working both bilaterally and internationally, seek to develop the necessary legal framework for better regulation of the flows, focusing on human rights and, in particular, on the better harmonization of policies aimed at eradicating the painful and tragic situations of migration in certain countries and regions of the world. More than ever before, as in other areas of international relations, a firm and sustainable will is the cornerstone for the success of our common initiative.

Cape Verde, which has been a country of abundant migration, is very sensitive to the diaspora, given that remittances have always formed an important part of our budget. Today, as a country of origin, transit and destination, my country continues to note that there is much activity and feels a great responsibility towards the community in the diaspora and in migration. We are working to coordinate policies in that area with our partners.

We would like to commend in particular the European Union for its willingness and its help, which enables us to better manage our migration flows and to have better coordinated policies specifically aimed at the reintegration and productive participation of migrants. For example, in the mobility partnership between the European Union and Cape Verde, the European Union project on capacity-building for migrants in Cape Verde provides aid for the economic reinsertion of nationals who wish to return to their country. The recent approval of a communication plan aimed at more effectively attracting the savings of migrants for investment in productive activities allows us to improve in that area. Countries such as France, Portugal, the Netherlands and Luxembourg are participating in the project.

I would also like to raise the question of irregular or clandestine migration that involves trafficking in human beings and afflicts all our societies and affects our respective jurisdictions. It is a challenge for our countries that has to be met from a humanitarian and security point of view. It is also a problem for Cape Verde. Civil societies and non-governmental organizations are working with all stakeholders to resolve that urgent

situation. The United Nations action plan on trafficking in persons provides us with the necessary guidelines to prevent and combat that universal scourge and to aid the victims, in particular women and children, and resolutely to prosecute those who commit such crimes. A Trust Fund was established by the United Nations for victims, and it is hoped that large contributions will make it possible to offer concrete aid to the victims.

I also note the issue of climate refugees, which other speakers have mentioned. In fact, the planet's global warming, desertification, rising sea levels, and soil erosion, as well as floods, forest fires and the melting of glaciers, have caused millions of human beings to leave their homes and have obliged them to migrate. There is a veritable explosion in migration because of the scale of migration flows, which is irreversible in the majority of cases and is taking place simultaneously in various parts of the world.

It is estimated that every two seconds someone moves because of climate change. In 2008, 36 million people had to leave their homes for that reason. Between 2008 and 2012, 143.9 million people had to hastily leave their homes for the same reason. Those people are increasingly going to the towns, fuelling the urban explosion. In most cases, migration occurs domestically, but increasingly, in the Pacific in particular, the world can expect a massive surge in migration flows owing to the rise in the sea levels and the gradual disappearance of land on the small island developing States of the Pacific.

In conclusion, let me share the following with the Assembly. In Cape Verde, everybody has at least one person in their family who has migrated. My parents went to Senegal in the 1940s, and today members of my family live, for various reasons, in various parts of the world. I am therefore a true product of that global phenomenon. And certainly in this Hall, others have had the same experience. On account of my experience, I am tempted to say that migration enables contributions to countries and peoples, who become richer with another culture, and as a result, they naturally possess a tolerant vision of the world and a certain desire for openness and sharing. Certainly, the sociopolitical climate and the trials of life will change us, but the Assembly will agree with me that hope will always be appropriate when a migrant settles and builds his future.

Mr. Ngorima (Zimbabwe): Allow me to begin by expressing my Government's gratitude to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General for

convening this High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. It is a timely and relevant initiative that seeks to express the nexus between migration and development, particularly in the context of formulating the post-2015 development agenda.

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representatives of Ethiopia on behalf of the Africa Group and of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Zimbabwe supports Africa's position on the action plan consisting of the eight proposed points of the Secretary-General in his report (A/68/190) on the follow-up to the High-Level Dialogue. The recommendations complement our national values and objectives. We endeavour to eliminate the exploitation of all persons, protect the human rights of all migrants, integrate migration into the post-2015 development agenda, strengthen the use of factual data on migration and expand cooperative partnerships on migration issues.

Migration, both illegal and legal, is an age-old human phenomenon. It has been a constant in the history of human development. It is a multidimensional issue, which, by definition and by its nature, requires intensive cooperation and the coordination of activities through the harmonization of policies at the national, regional, continental and international levels in order to address the challenges and harness the development potential it presents.

In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (resolution 66/288, annex), migration was recognized as a means to promote economic, social and cultural development in both sending and receiving countries. Apart from remittances, diaspora groups and transnational communities also play an important role by facilitating trade, investment, the transfer of skills and cultural linkages between countries. It is against that background that the post-2015 development agenda should recognize and appreciate the significant role of international migration in promoting economic, social and cultural development.

We welcome the mounting evidence that, with the right policies in place, migrants can significantly contribute to development in both countries of origin and countries of destination through remittances, trade, investment, the creation of enterprises and the transfer of technology, skills and knowledge. That evidence-based demonstration of the benefits of

migration has changed the narrative on migration and contributed to the debunking of negative stereotypes and myths about migration.

As developing countries, however, we have lost highly skilled persons, especially in the health and engineering fields. We therefore expect that, as part of the migration discourse, consideration would be given to factors that ensure mutual benefits for both source and destination countries.

The most vulnerable groups of migrants are often those whose movements are forced by circumstances. They usually consist of the unskilled and semi-skilled groups. It is important to address the challenges faced by irregular migrants to ensure their safety and the protection of their human rights. Often human traffickers exploit their desperation and put them in situations approximating slavery. Most of the victims in that category are women and children. We are committed to all efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to protect migrants from exploitation and other abuses. We also subscribe to the need to respect and promote international labour standards and the rights of migrants in the work place.

One of the main challenges is the flow of undocumented migrants between countries and regions. Such movements are triggered by a variety of factors, including instability, disasters, famine and other economic factors, and they present challenges to receiving and transit countries. Zimbabwe has become both a transit and a destination country for third-country nationals. As a country with a small developing economy, we have experienced the strains that migration of that kind places on our limited resources. We are committed to fulfilling our obligations, but we need assistance and cooperation in that regard. We appreciate the contribution by the International Organization for Migration through the operation of research and support centres for refugees and migrants around the country.

The Government of Zimbabwe acknowledges the assistance and contribution of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in responding to migrants' humanitarian needs around the world. The Government, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and UNHCR, continues to implement projects and programmes that address the challenges being faced by migrants and refugees in Zimbabwe.

As a people that emerged from an armed struggle against colonialism and injustice and as a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Government of Zimbabwe strongly condemns all forms of modern slavery, human exploitation, xenophobia and racial discrimination. We therefore welcome efforts to come up with integrated, coherent and effective global guidelines on migration and development with a view to achieving win-win outcomes.

Mr. Logar (Slovenia): Let me join others in expressing my Government's deepest condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the tragedy off the coast of Lampedusa. It was really a human tragedy. Slovenia also associates itself with the statement made this morning by the observer of the European Union.

The second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development is taking place at a very crucial moment, bearing in mind the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 framework. It provides a unique opportunity to reiterate and further strengthen the common commitments towards deepening cooperation on migration and development. Seven years after the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, Slovenia expects that the second High-level Dialogue will take into account all the positive results achieved in 2006, as well as the progress accomplished by the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the important contributions made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration. We hope to work towards a global agenda for effective and inclusive migration management, secure renewed commitment to the issue of international migration and development, and identify measures that promote the role of migrants as promoters of innovation and development.

We come together to discuss migration — the challenges and opportunities it presents. For Slovenia, there is a central topic that is worthy of attention, namely, respect for the human rights of migrants. Particular attention should therefore be given to the protection of women, children and victims of trafficking. In that vein, we believe that we need to improve the governance of migration, particularly as regards the protection of the human rights of all migrants, perceptions of migrants and immigration and the reflection of migration in national and global development agendas.

Slovenia believes that there is still some room for improvement in finding synergies among the relevant United Nations agencies and other international and regional organizations dealing with migration and development. We hope to avoid wasting resources, including human and financial resources, and to develop a more coherent and comprehensive global policy on migration and development. Furthermore, we need to work towards more effective cooperation among all relevant stakeholders at all levels and increase the role of partnerships so as to make migration a positive narrative for all.

The interconnection between migration and development no longer needs to be proved. Migration and mobility have contributed to the achievement of many of the Millennium Development Goals and still have important potential for the acceleration of progress towards the realization of those targets where we remain off-track. We believe that the migration-development nexus can be successfully tackled only comprehensively — at the global, regional and national levels. That is why Slovenia considers that we should develop a more holistic approach and properly address all relevant aspects in a balanced way and establish a basic common understanding of the dynamics of that nexus. That will help us in elaborating the role of migration in the post-2015 agenda.

Furthermore, we believe that migration and mobility should be included in the post-2015 agenda as enabling factors for the realization of other goals on that agenda. In that regard, we should take into account the impacts of migration not only on sustainable economic development but also on sustainable social and environmental development, especially the interlinkages between climate change, environmental degradation and migration, which should be further explored. We should also acknowledge that more systematic work is needed to provide a sufficient knowledge base on how migration can drive progress towards sustainable development. It will, therefore, be crucial that we attach greater importance to data collection and research.

Migration undoubtedly has many positive impacts on development. In our deliberations on the role of migration in the post-2015 period, we should try to secure the many possible positive effects of migration and development and minimize the detrimental aspects, which usually come with poorly managed migration.

Let me conclude by underlining that Slovenia pays great attention to migration issues at the national, regional and global levels. Allow me to present just a few achievements that we can note in Slovenia in the field of migration. First, among the new developments regarding integration programmes for third-country nationals, several assistance programmes for the integration of specific target groups of third-country nationals were implemented in 2012, including programmes that provide information to parents of children enrolled in primary schools and programmes that strive to enhance the social inclusion of women and young people.

With regard to regional cooperation, a project to strengthen effectiveness in the investigation of trafficking in human beings in South-East Europe proceeded with the introduction of joint investigation teams. Migration is also high on the agenda of the so-called Brdo process initiated by the President of the Republic of Slovenia, which is essentially a regional process for Slovenia and its neighbourhood. A few days ago, at the end of September, Slovenia hosted a migration and development peer-to-peer meeting in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Migration III Project. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss and explore the importance of stronger links between immigrant communities and the impact of migrant-led businesses on countries of origin and countries of destination.

Ms. Nazaire (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): Allow me to begin by conveying the condolences of the Government of Haiti to the families of the victims of the tragic accident that took place off the coast of Lampedusa yesterday. My delegation fully aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of Fiji, Benin and Cuba, who spoke, respectively, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the least developed countries and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (see A/68/PV.25). We also thank the President of the General Assembly for having taken the timely initiative to convene a High-level Dialogue on the topic of international migration and development.

According to the most conservative estimates, about one fifth of the current population of Haiti — that is, almost 2 million of its nationals and their dependents — live abroad today. The strong migration that the country saw during the second half of the last century adversely impacted Haiti at all levels of production and administration, as well as in the

vital sectors of education and professional training. It would appear that more than 70 per cent of the most educated Haitian citizens live in countries members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. In Haiti, the brain drain is an undeniable reality.

On the other hand, as an illustration of the complexity of relations between migration and sustainable development, our country today, through its large diaspora across the world, has an incredible reserve of financial, intellectual and professional resources that successive Governments have endeavoured to take advantage of as key levers of growth and social progress in Haiti.

In addition to seeking balance and leveraging the economic and social impacts of migration, Haiti is particularly concerned by the serious issues of human rights that current and potential migrants face in transit and destination countries. Economic exploitation, the stripping of migrant workers of their social rights, the trafficking in human beings, particularly women and children, and the forced repatriation of migrants who are judged undesirable, rightly or not, have increased in a most alarming manner. That situation has been exacerbated by the global economic crisis and its regional and local fallout, which has led to the intensification of certain nationalist trends.

Nevertheless, despite all the dangers and risks that candidates for migrations face, globalization today would suggest that migratory movements, be they regulated or not, be they South to North or, more often, South to South, will only grow. Indeed, phenomena such as growing disparities between and within emerging countries, mobility and accelerated planetary connectivity, climate change and chaotic democratic transitions facilitate vast movements of peoples or make them more desirable.

The interlinkages between international migration and development foreshadow major challenges for the future. In order to best evaluate those phenomena and establish the appropriate measures to take in order to reap the greatest dividends from international migration, there needs to be a humanistic, objective and systematic approach. As it enables deep reflection and multilateral exchange, today's High-level Dialogue is therefore welcome, necessary and crucial.

Along the lines of the results we seek to achieve during our work, my delegation welcomes the intention

to acknowledge the important role played by migrants in the development of their country of destination, for example, in creating wealth, demographic rejuvenation, vitality and cultural diversity. Indeed, we think that aspect, which is too often eclipsed, intentionally or inadvertently, by actions taken by migrants that benefit their countries of origin, can significantly improve the public's opinion of migrants and international migration.

My delegation also believes that decisions should be based on a practical, action-oriented approach that emphasizes human rights and the fundamental freedoms of migrants, particularly women and children. In the case of migrant workers and their work and salaries, the debate should be based on existing international standards such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Domestic Workers Convention.

My delegation considers the need for cooperation to be particularly important for dealing holistically with the causes, consequences and challenges of irregular or undocumented migration in order to strengthen ordered, regular and safe migration.

In the framework of measures aimed at reducing the imbalances created by the brain drain and the flight of vital resources, we should encourage the promotion of circular migration and financial contributions by migrants in diasporas in the form of productive investment geared towards development in their countries of origin.

Haiti welcomes the efforts and initiatives in the area of international migration and development by the various relevant entities of the United Nations system and the various ad hoc partnership mechanisms, like the Global Migration Group and the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

To conclude, we must forcefully reaffirm our conviction that the strengthening of the synergies between international migration and development that benefit countries of origin, transit and destination, all at the same time, can best be obtained through dialogue and international and regional cooperation and certainly not through unilateral authoritarian decision-making, which is always counterproductive in the long term, even when it is adorned with the seal of laws and constitutions.

Mr. Beck (Solomon Islands): I thank the President for convening this High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. At the outset, Solomon Islands aligns itself with the statements made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by the representative of Benin on behalf of the least developed countries (see A/68/PV.25). We also thank the delegation of Mexico for its leadership on this topic, and we wish to express gratitude for everyone's contribution.

We live and operate in a globalized, interconnected and interlinked international economic system. Technology, communication and modern transportation have made the world even smaller. We agree that international migration is a cross-cutting issue and contributes to development for both the receiving and the sending States. As stated by many in today's debate, migrant workers remain agents for development. However, more international cooperation is needed to control the negative impact of migration and to prevent forced migration. We see the discussion as timely as we continue to consider the post-2015 development agenda.

While there is growing South-South migration, it is a fact that South-North migration remains more defined. Economic migrants are agents for development. More work by global financial institutions is needed to reduce remittance costs for migrant workers, their families and their communities. Families depend on those funds for school fees, health, food and shelter. Solomon Islands has worked with the International Organization for Migration to build its national capacity, including through a review of legislation, policies, staff development and training in, inter alia, managing the movement of foreign workers.

In the Pacific, we have put in place at the Government level a seasonal labour mobility initiative among the Pacific small island developing States (SIDS), including Timor-Leste, and our larger neighbours, Australia and New Zealand, which organizes and heavily regulates employer-driven labour mobility and looks after the welfare of migrants and guarantees the supply of productive labour. We have a huge youth population, which exceeds half of our national population, with high unemployment in the focal sectors, and competition for the limited contractual labour opportunities remains very high. We hope to establish more guest worker arrangements with other countries to give hope and a future to our youth.

On South-South cooperation, integration among the Melanesian Spearhead Group countries of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands has deepened the movement of labour, as free trade arrangements continue to take root in the four Pacific SIDS. The economic boom in Papua New Guinea has opened up opportunities for skilled workers from the country's Pacific neighbours, and some Solomon Islands nationals have taken advantage of that.

When we speak of international migration, we are also talking about humanitarian and environmental migrants seeking decent employment outside their countries of origin — populations fleeing from conflict situations or from the impacts of climate change, such as drought, floods and other natural disasters. What we are now seeing is the gradual impact of climate change's slow-onset events, where damage caused by climate change becomes irreversible and permanent. Examples of that are sea-level rise and ocean acidification.

Dealing with environmental refugees as populations are forced off their land and are obliged seek employment beyond their ancestral lands in order to survive is a reality. That is something that the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (resolution 66/288, annex) underscores. We have extracted so much from the planet in an unsustainable way, without allowing it to heal itself. We have thus more or less reached the limit of what the planet can take. Accordingly, dialogue is necessary to address and respond to the complexity of international migration.

Discussion should also focus on the root causes of conflicts and how to prevent them and on doing more to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions as a way of addressing the uncertain future that climate change is already defining for our present and future generations.

Once again, Solomon Islands welcomes this High-level Dialogue and assures the General Assembly of its cooperation as we continue the discussion on economic, humanitarian and environmental migrants.

Mr. Talbot (Guyana): The delegation of Guyana is pleased to participate in this second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. We associate ourselves with the statements delivered by the representatives of Fiji and Cuba, who spoke on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, respectively (see A/68/PV.25).

We welcome the consensus adoption yesterday of the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (resolution 68/4) and applaud Mexico's instrumental role in facilitating that result.

Among its provisions, the Declaration recognizes that international migration is of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination. The report of the Secretary-General on the subject, contained in document A/68/190, bears ample testimony to international migration's undoubted importance to the current development discourse. The eight-point agenda for action proposed therein addresses critical aspects of the migration and development agenda.

The interrelationships between international migration and development are of course complex and multifaceted, but no one can deny that migration has contributed in diverse ways to development in nations and societies in all parts of the globe. Globalization now ensures that the transnational movement of peoples will remain a reality, indeed a necessity, in today's global economy. It is important, therefore, that the contribution of migrants be duly acknowledged and their rights respected and protected. The international community bears a collective responsibility to protect migrants from exploitation and discrimination, even as countries exercise their sovereign right to regulate migratory flows.

As a country of origin, transit and destination, Guyana has benefited from those who have come to our shores to live and work. Similarly, Guyanese migrants have made a positive contribution to countries and societies in many parts of the world. Guyana is a party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and we were proud to become the first in the Caribbean to ratify the Domestic Workers Convention of the International Labour Organization in 2011.

For many developing countries such as my own, international migration has led to a loss of critical human resources, with adverse implications for a national development thrust. A high percentage of our graduates now live and work in foreign lands. Remittances, substantial though they may be, are not a substitute for that primary loss of skills and capacities. Nevertheless, the importance of remittances is not to be understated. According to the Multilateral Investment

Fund, Latin American and Caribbean migrants sent \$61 billion in remittances to their home countries in 2010, with a year-on-year growth of 6 per cent. In 2011, Guyana received some \$400 million in remittances, the equivalent of more than 10 per cent of our gross domestic product. Reducing the cost of those transfers could certainly augment their potential economic impact.

The role of technology and improved communications is also to be acknowledged for helping to better connect diasporas with their countries of origin. Renewed connections facilitated in that manner have opened up new possibilities for the contribution of diasporas to development in their home countries. Working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Government of Guyana has embarked on the Guyana Diaspora Project with a view to facilitating a more structured engagement with the Guyanese diaspora. The Project will enable the identification of resources available within the diaspora and contribute to leveraging the interest of our nationals abroad in contributing to development at home.

At the regional level, progress towards to the Caribbean single market and economy has facilitated the movement of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nationals generally and labour mobility in particular within CARICOM. On the other hand, mixed migration flows, including trafficking in persons, have become an issue of concern. In May 2013, the IOM helped organize a regional conference in the Bahamas on the protection of vulnerable people and mixed migration flows in the Caribbean. The aim was to strengthen national and regional capacities to effectively manage such flows, while recognizing the rights of legal migrants and building protection safeguards into regional and multilateral agreements.

In conclusion, we believe that the inextricable and multidimensional nexus between international migration and development deserves to be fully taken into account in the context of efforts to elaborate a post-2015 development agenda. It is necessary that that nexus be fully understood, so that we can develop cooperative and coherent approaches for the benefit of all.

The meeting rose at 2 p.m.