

Meeting 462
Date 2.12.04
Time _____
Tape No. _____

Check against delivery

STATEMENT OF AMB. ENRIQUE A. MANALO
Permanent Representative
Philippines
88TH Session International Organization for Migration
02 December 2004

Mr. Chairman:

1. In the Philippines, migration has contributed and continues to contribute to economic development, social dynamism, cultural richness and diversity. It has, in other words a multidimensional impact. This is why we support IOMs work and activities especially, among others, as reflected in the presence of the IOM Manila Administrative Center.
2. The Philippine delegation wishes to commend the IOM for focusing this 88th Session on the very important and timely subject of valuing migration- specifically its costs, benefits, opportunities and challenges. The interactive dialogue has been particularly useful.
3. It is in this sense that we particularly appreciate IOM document MC/INF/276 which highlights the human, the economic and social-cultural dimensions for valuing migration.

d. Reintegration programs are also conducted. Entrepreneurship seminars are conducted on - site as well as in the Philippines. Housing loan programs for investing in housing in the Philippines are also provided.

7. I also wish to cite a number of best practices of migrant integration currently practiced by some host countries which we believe should become more universal and complement sending states practices in the context of a coordinated migration management approach:

a. continuous dialogue with groups, associations and social partners involved in the frontline of migration issues

b. a well-placed system whereby the employer maintains responsibility in the pre-selection process and the integration of the migrant worker to help avoid abuses

c. provision of tools for integration such as free language training, skills upgrading and courses for career and personal development

d. measures for the reunification of families, and provision of facilities for associations in community centers in order for them to conduct meetings, seminars and cultural events.

12. Finally, just 2 specific suggestions for further work, i.e. more focused attention to the economic and social dimensions of female migration, including the effects of Trafficking in women and girls; and exploring further linkages with WTO such as in the discussions of movements of natural persons in the services negotiations.