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Statement by Brazil

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and the new Bureau on your election. I would also like to thank Ambassador Luís Alfonso de Alba for his work as President of the 89th Council.

Allow me to extend a warm welcome to the new Members, Cameroon, Ghana, Belarus and Togo, as well as to the new observer, the Islamic Relief.

International migration has gained great visibility in recent years. The issue has been discussed in several fora, and important reports have been released in 2005 – such as the IOM World Migration Report 2005, the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects, and the report of the Global Commission on International Migration.

Additionally, the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be held in New York, in September 2006, will also provide an opportunity for countries to come up with practical and operational solutions to the issue of international migration.

The world was also confronted with the tragic side of migration. One cannot – and should not – easily forget the image of desperate migrants trying to reach Europe.

This situation underscores the need for the international community to adopt a balanced, comprehensive and long-term approach to tackle international migration; an approach that takes into account the interests of countries of origin and destination, but, first and foremost, the rights and the well-being of the migrants themselves.

Such an approach has to go beyond the management of migration – which is an important, but not the central element for tackling the issue

appropriately. This new approach should consider the push & pull factors relating to migration, as well as its consequences, both positive and negative, and take into account the interests of countries of origin and destination. Moreover, this new approach should have the migrants as the center of migration policies and debates.

In this regard, we welcome the non-paper prepared by the former President of the Council, Ambassador de Alba, as a result of the consultations he undertook on the Strategy of the IOM, in which he proposes that the IOM embark on a "new culture on migration", centered on the person of the migrant, as the final recipient of its activities. We believe the proposal on a "new culture on migration" deserves a full and continued discussion, not only in IOM but also in the context of the preparations for the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, the International Dialogue on Migration has been focused on coherence. The panel on "towards policy coherence on migration", held during the first two days of the Council meeting, contributed to enriching discussion on this very important topic. We thank all the speakers and discussants for their contributions.

The need for more coherence on migration is key to strengthening global socio-economic development and to fully exploring the benefits of migration. Capacity-building is paramount in this regard. The first step towards coherence rests on building the capacity to analyze and understand the migration flows, including its push & pull factors; building the capacity to create an appropriate infrastructure for the development of legislation on migration; and on engaging stakeholders, in particular NGOs and the private sector. Acquiring a proper knowledge of the phenomenon of international migration is a fundamental step towards advancing migration as a vigorous tool for global development.

We share the view that coherence is needed at all levels. First, within governments – which requires consultation and coordination among official agencies and Ministries involved with migration, as well as with NGOs and civil society in general.

Coherence is also required between States. Migration is not and cannot be an issue to be dealt with unilaterally.

Fundamentally, to ensure coherence, States' policies should be consistent with their international obligations, especially those relating to international human rights and humanitarian law. Migration cannot be dealt with in isolation of other pressing global issues, such as trade, development, and human rights.

On migration and development, let me highlight the issue of remittances. Brazil attaches great importance to this issue; in the context of the Technical Group on Innovative Financing Mechanisms, established under the aegis of the Action against Hunger and Poverty, Brazil has presented a resolution, to the United Nations General Assembly, on the facilitation and reduction of costs of migrant workers' remittances.

The World Bank publication *Global Economic Prospects* has also recognized that a reduction in the costs of remittances' transfer will impact positively not only on migrants, but also on the countries of origin and destination. One can not elude the fact that migrants do contribute to the welfare and GDP of countries of destination. It is estimated that the contribution of migrants to the countries of destination amount to around 2 trillion USD per year (which represents 7 – 8% of industrial countries' GDP). The diverse background of migrants also contributes to enriching the culture and societies of receiving countries.

On the other hand, 17% of the migrants' income is transferred to their countries of origin, as remittances. The money transferred to developing countries amount to USD 167 billion per year. Despite how impressive these

numbers are, it is always important to recall that remittances are not a substitute for national development policies or foreign direct investment.

Regarding institutional developments, we have taken note of the Global Commission's proposal to establish an Inter-Agency Global Facility on Migration. We understand that the Facility will most probably be established by expanding the Geneva Migration Group, in which IOM plays an important role. We hope that proper channels for reporting are established in order to keep the States informed of the developments that occur within the expanded Geneva Migration Group.

Nevertheless, the Global Facility on Migration will not fulfill the need for a proper multilateral forum on migration. Without prejudice to the Global Facility - which may constitute a useful means to enhance coordination and coherence among agencies - we believe that, due to the complex and multi-faceted nature of international migration, the Economic and Social Council can be a natural locus for deliberations among States, as well as international agencies, NGOs, the private sector and migrants themselves. We hope the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development can address this issue, by elaborating concrete proposals regarding a long-term multilateral approach for migration.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe IOM can play a decisive role in promoting a comprehensive approach to migration, centered on providing capacity to developing countries and on ensuring respect for the human rights of migrants, irrespectively of their legal status. Let me reassure you of the willingness of my delegation to work with IOM in this regard.

Thank you.