



***Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office
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INTERVENTION BY BRAZIL

Mister President,

The world economic crisis continues to exacerbate the vulnerability of migrants and their families around the globe. Migrants were amongst the first to lose their jobs and still tend to be blamed for some of the worst aspects of the crisis, such as unemployment, further exposing them to discrimination, xenophobia and racism. □□

Discriminatory practices are not only a human rights concern but also obstacles to the inclusion, acceptance and integration of migrants in countries of destination. As opportunities for regular migration diminish as a consequence of the imposition of yet more restrictive policies, women, men and young migrants become more vulnerable to indecent working conditions, human trafficking and smuggling. □□

As the Director-General emphasizes in his report, many governments, instead of getting prepared to the compelling forces of global mobility, are adopting approaches that foster anti-migrant sentiment, push more would-be migrants to the hands of traffickers and often imperils the lives of even regular migrants, while hiding the historically positive contribution of migrants to societies and economies.

Brazil believes that human rights based regulations and policies which promote access to decent work, health care, education and adequate housing are important not only for the protection of migrants' human rights, but also for their social inclusion and integration, which can greatly contribute to progress and development.

The Brazilian Migration Policy aims to meet the aspirations of Brazilians that lives overseas and to maintain a favorable environment for migrants in Brazil. These principles are: i) reciprocity; ii) respect for the dignity of human beings; iii) provision of incentives for regular migration and iv) rejection of criminalization and of deliberate conceptual confusion between migration and

criminality.

Mister President,

The Brazilian Government has strongly and repeatedly pronounced, in bilateral negotiations and in international forums, against undue association between irregular migration and crime.

The Brazilian government believes that granting the same treatment to undocumented migrants and criminals undermines basic notions of humanity and justice. We believe that the way forward is not criminalization, but the regularization of migration, as exemplified by the approval of the Brazilian Law No. 11,961 of July 2009, which promoted wide regularization of immigration status of foreigners in Brazil.

The Brazilian Migration Policy also leads us to address the migration issue with sensitivity and solidarity. That is why the Brazilian Government responded promptly to the increase flow of Haitian migrants to Brazil. To respond to the needs of these migrants – vulnerable to trafficking and other international crimes - and to ensure respect for their dignity and human rights, the National Immigration Council (CNIg) adopted a resolution to allow the granting of additional 1,200 work permits per year for migrants from Haiti. Furthermore, more than 4,000 Haitians already in the country had their situation regularized.

The measures were put in place in dialogue with the Haitian government and aims at giving real opportunities for migrants from Haiti and their families to settle in the country in a dignified manner.

Mister President,

2012 was dominated by the crisis across North Africa, with hundreds of thousands of migrants exposed to extreme risks. In response to this crisis, as well as many others around the globe, IOM responded with life-saving assistance as the leading international agency working with the inexorable trend of migration.

Brazil supports an active participation of the OIM on the Second United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. Its commitment to helping Member States adopt more flexible and favorable conditions to migrants and their families and its expertise in dealing with vulnerable migrant populations by providing assistance and legal protection can provide very important contributions to the debate.

Brazil is looking forward for further cooperation with OIM in projects in the region and in other parts of the globe. It is also our expectation that in the near future we will have an IOM Office in Brazil.

Thank you, Mister President