

Speaker from the floor input

Informal Interactive Hearings on International Migration and Development

Action theme 4: Migration, governance and partnerships

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We all hope that the proposals for governance and international collaboration put forward during session 4 will improve current handling of migratory issues and clearly, above all, improve the living conditions and integration of migrants in all societies.

However, we now know that the years and decades to come will present us with even bigger challenges and we will unquestionably need another level of response in terms of global migration governance, if we want to avoid an exacerbation of human catastrophes, discrimination, tension in all societies and flouting of fundamental rights of an ever-growing number of people who are trying to live dignified lives or simply survive...

Indeed, we know – because we have already seen it – that we will be experiencing a significant increase in migratory phenomenon due in part to the impacts of climate change, environmental destruction, globalisation of the economy, new or ongoing conflict throughout the world and also because people migrating of their own accord is the course the world is taking.

We also need another level of response because no-one can shed any doubt on the fact that migration is now making a significant contribution to development and that diversity is a major source of dynamism for our societies.

In order to build the future, the time has perhaps come to take a step back and begin exploring the possibility of an alternative model, of another prospect for migration, the prospect of committing all States to worldwide freedom of movement and settlement.

Furthermore, I believe it is crucial that the United Nations hosts an international conference in order to specifically discuss this prospect of freedom of movement and settlement, bringing together States, civil society and socio-economic actors, whilst clearly also making room for migrants themselves.

The limits and guarantees of this proposal for worldwide freedom of movement would evidently also need to be dealt with, for example:

- The guarantee that migrants and nationals would have the same economic and social rights, which is the cornerstone of universal citizenship
- States' future sovereignty as regards the question of international migration
- The various conceivable steps in order to meet the objective, on a pathway that would almost certainly be fairly lengthy

Although at first glimpse it may seem idealistic, we may in fact be holding, on the contrary, a key to a better future; one that respects every individual's fundamental right to come and go.

As has been the case concerning challenges relating to the environment, climate, development and peace, for my part, freedom of movement and settlement must similarly be dealt with as an issue of global urgency: this is the reason for this appeal for an international debate within the framework of the United Nations agenda.

Thank you.