

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

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**Explanation of Position by the European Union  
Resolution "International migration and development"**

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

We have just adopted by consensus a resolution on "International Migration and Development". The European Union wishes to clarify its position concerning certain provisions of the text, and the reasons which led it to join the consensus.

The resolution recalls the existence of the Global Forum on International Migration and Development which has operated on an annual basis since its inception in 2007. The European Union strongly believes in the importance of the Global Forum as it offers the opportunity for countries to continue the dialogue on migration and development, and to contribute to the development of holistic approaches to the issue. Since the beginning, the European Union has been a strong supporter of the Global Forum in the conviction that it can bring added value, provided that it is informal, voluntary, non-binding and driven by interested States and participants. The European Union therefore wishes to reiterate its commitment to the Global Forum as an intergovernmental body.

The European Union noted that several States wished that the migration and development issue be also discussed within the United Nations, as in 2006 at the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. However, the European Union believes that the Global Forum is the appropriate international framework to address the issue of migration and development rather than the UN. Furthermore, the European Union did not want a second Dialogue to be organised in the same year as the Forum, lest they compete against each other. Several States have offered to host the Forum in the coming years: Greece in 2009, Argentina in 2010, Spain in 2011, Morocco in 2012. At this stage, no offer has been made to host the Forum in 2013. This is why, in the interests of consensus and despite the reservations above, the European Union has agreed to hold a second High-level Dialogue in 2013. It also thought that a discussion within the United Nations could find justification in the lead up to the International Conference on Population and Development + 20, to be held in 2014 and where migration and development issues will be addressed.

The resolution also provides for the holding of a one day informal thematic debate in 2011 during the 65th session on the issue of international migration and development. The European Union did not oppose the principle of such a debate, in a spirit of consensus and despite its serious reservations.

The European Union wishes to explain where it sees the informal thematic debate fitting into the existing international architecture. In line with our earlier comments, we do not feel that it should be structured in the same way as a High Level Dialogue. Nor should it overshadow the Forum scheduled in Spain in 2011. Rather, we would see the debate as being an informal meeting of experts, not resulting in any binding conclusions so as to encourage fruitful and open exchanges on the issues and challenges of migration and development.

Madam Chair,

The migration and development issue is a sensitive one. The resolution also contains provisions of substance on which all Member States were able to agree. This augurs well for fruitful exchanges in the fora that currently deal or will deal with this issue.

Thank you.