



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

**Working session 5**

**HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND OTHER COMMITMENTS  
MIGRANT WORKERS, INTEGRATION OF LEGAL MIGRANTS**

**STATEMENT BY THE AMBASSADOR OF NORWAY  
H E GUTTORM VIK**

**Warszawa, September 26, 2007**

Mr. Moderator,

International migration and mobility across continents and borders is a clear and visible part of globalization. World wide, it is affecting the life of around 200 million migrants in a direct and concrete way.

Many challenges emerge out of the broad topic of international migration, and Norway is well aware of its negative aspects. We are fully engaged in both domestic and global efforts and initiatives to fight abuses like trafficking in human beings, and to reduce the brain drain of competence from poor countries that sometimes is more needed at home.

At the same time, we view international migration as a potentially positive contribution to development both for the individual migrant and for home and host societies and countries – when managed in a proper way. Through migration, the migrants are often given the opportunity to develop their own skills and knowledge, to gain experience, and contribute to intercultural exchange. It is a goal for the world society to make these gains of the individuals contribute to sustainable development also in the home communities of the migrants.

[Norway is committed to redistribution of wealth at global, regional and national level. Many of the social and human challenges connected to migration can be met through establishment and implementation of international and regional standards.]

A strong link between international migration and development is the remittance of migrants' private money. Through these remittances, the migrants also contribute to an important sustainable development effect among their families and relatives. It is well recognized that these remittances in many countries are a leveraged source for development and for poverty reduction. [The remitted money is often used to finance health services, education, housing and food for children and family members. Remitted money invested in construction or small businesses also gives positive development effects in local communities.]

Norway wants to contribute to give these remittances even more developmental effect, and we are establishing cooperation between different stakeholders to reach these goals. A dialogue with the financial institutions is crucial in order to achieve cost efficiency and better transparency in the transfer of remittances, as further developed in the full text of my statement.

[The reduction of transfer costs and increased transparency is a goal for Norway in the policy work on migrants' remittances. By making the transfer of remittances more cost efficient we will ensure that as much as possible of the remitted amount of money is reaching the recipients. By improving the condition for remittances we also want to increase the use of legal and formal channels. This will secure the migrants' money, and increased use of banks or financial services will enable savings and investments. Transparency will also reduce speculations about remittances being used for the purpose of money laundering or for financing terror, domestic war and violence, or other criminal activities].

The Norwegian government will build on the competence represented by migrants and migrant organisations involved in development cooperation. Realizing that other donor and recipient countries may have established procedures and models that may be replicated, we will seek alliances and partnerships among them. Norway is also currently developing a pilot project on matching funding of public money from the Norwegian government with private money from the Norwegian migrant community for development projects in a partner country.

[The size of the Norwegian migrant community is limited. However, we see now the involvement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of labour migrants to Norway in the 60s and 70s, and we are witnessing a great willingness within these groups to contribute to the Norwegian development cooperation – often in relation to their own countries of origin. We acknowledge the potential resource these persons represent in our development strategies and want to include their perspectives in the Norwegian development cooperation to a larger extent. This group's knowledge of local culture, language, geography, religion etc is an important resource in our work towards partner countries, at the same time as the use of skills of the migrant community can improve the integration process on domestic ground.]

The Norwegian labour market is experiencing a great need of foreign work force – in several public and private sectors. The Norwegian government is now preparing a White Paper on Labour Migration which will be presented to the parliament in the first half of next year (2008). The links between migration and development will be emphasized in this document.

Norway also welcomes increased interstate cooperation at the global level.

Norway is continuing to develop its policy on international migration and development in the light of the international debate after the high level dialogue in the UN last September (2006).

Norway was one of the main contributors to the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Brussels this summer and we will contribute to keep focus on the positive aspects of international migration in the international debate among the UN and OSCE member states.

To promote stability and growth, we believe that social as well as economic effects of international migration must be addressed. The High Level Dialogue and its follow-up global forum must address the tricky balance between regulation and incentives, and between national and international regimes. We hope this forum will also contribute to that, and to mutual understanding among the OSCE countries.