



THE HOLY SEE
Economic and Environmental Sessions of the 2010 Review Conference
19-20, 25-26 October 2010, Vienna
Working Session 4: Economic Cluster
Wednesday, October 20, 2010

- **Migration;**
- **Energy security;**
- **The way forward.**

Mr. Chairman,

1. Migration is undoubtedly one of the recognizable signs of the times: it is a phenomenon that can be said to have taken on structural characteristics, becoming an important factor of the labour market worldwide. This is a consequence, among other things, of the enormous drive of globalization. Migration is also widely recognized as a complex phenomenon. It is a reality of our days which, in its complexity, touches upon different aspects of OSCE concerns, namely, security, stability, trafficking in human beings, border security, sustainable development, human rights and fundamental freedoms, etc. In this time of economic and financial crisis, the issue is becoming even more complex and deserves to be seriously considered by our Organization today and also in the future.

During this second part of the Review Conference, we are invited to reflect more upon economic aspects of migration; my Delegation will comment on other aspects on the occasion of the third part of the Review Conference in Astana. The Holy See is of the view that, especially in these difficult financial and economic times, all aspects of the phenomenon of migration should be carefully studied in order to find the right balance between the necessity of protection, and more generally, the moral obligations of governments to ensure the safety and well-being of their own populations, and a more universal ethic that values the well-being of each person, in this specific case of migrants.

2. Migration is one of the motors of growth of the global economy; it is also a great source of human concern, since it touches the lives and dignity of millions of migrants and their families. The dignity of the human person is at the core of the social teaching of Catholic Church. In his 2007 Message for the World Day of Peace Pope Benedict XVI affirmed: “The duty to respect the dignity of each human being, in whose nature the image of the Creator is reflected, means in consequence that *the person cannot be disposed of at will*.”

Those with greater political, technical, or economic power may not use that power to violate the rights of others who are less fortunate ... Conscious of this, the Church champions the fundamental rights of each person ...”

Especially in this time of economic crisis there is a tendency to put the rights of migrants aside. We must remember, however, that all human beings without exception, including all migrants, are endowed with inalienable rights which can neither be violated nor ignored. States have the duty to protect the inalienable rights of all persons, be they irregular migrants or not, because a migrant’s status is quite separate from his or her human dignity. Moreover, States must act so as to ensure the legally resident migrant workers opportunities of just employment and social security. In reference to migrant’s rights we cannot forget about his or her family. The family is of fundamental value in building any society. The Holy See constantly advocates the rights of migrant families and, in particular, the right of family reunification. With the Helsinki Final Act, the 1983 Madrid Document and the Concluding Document of the Vienna 1989 Meeting, the participating States committed themselves to facilitate the reuniting and regular contacts of legally residing migrant workers and their families. Migrants can only contribute to genuine development if their situation is human.

3. In the field of protection of migrant workers and their families various valid international Treaties already exist. Education can play a major role. Migrants, aware of their rights, can be more secure in offering their services and talents and the receiving community, well-informed and respectful of these rights, will feel freer and safer in extending its solidarity in order to build together a common future.

4. The Holy See is of the view that our Organization should continue and even reinforce its energies and activities dedicated to the phenomenon of migration. The Holy See is confident that the process of the implementation of economic and environmental commitments regarding migration will continue and that special attention will be given to the protection of the rights of migrants and their families.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!