



2ND GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ADDRESS OF SIR JOHN R.KAPUTIN
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN
AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES (ACP)

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Manila, Philippines

29 October 2008

**Your Excellency Mr. Saqr Ghobash, the Minister of Labour,
United Arab Emirates,**

**Your Excellency Mr. Rudi Veestraeten, Special Envoy for
Immigration and Asylum, Belgium,**

**Honourable Marianto Rogue, Secretary of the Department
of Labour and Employment, Philippines,**

**Honourable Estaban Conejos, Chairperson of the 2nd
Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and
Development,**

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States to participate in the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development. On behalf of the 79 member states of the ACP Group, covering the African continent and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands, and with an estimated population of 730 million, I would like to convey our appreciation to the Government and peoples of The Philippines for the excellent organisation of the Forum, and the warm welcome extended to participants. The ACP Group, whose membership consists exclusively of developing countries, is committed to fully participate in, and

contribute to the success of this Forum, which is being held, for the first time in a fellow developing country.

The ACP Group is honoured to be associated with the Forum through the support of its development partner, the European Commission. It is important that the voices of developing countries be heard within the context of the debate on Migration and Development, as these countries represent the greatest source of migrants over the last couple of decades.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today, our world is being affected by great shocks, shocks that require an urgent response and action. These global issues – climate change, the food, commodity, financial and energy crises – are impacting on each and everyone, from the North to the South, the East to the West, and in particular also on the movement and mobility of people. Today, like never before, ***we need political will, effective action and dynamic change with a sense of urgency*** – it is indeed timeous to construct a multi-dimensional, multi-stakeholder and holistic approach to these global challenges.

We need to join forces and build partnerships in order to seek positive measures and policies to ***”Protect and Empower***

Migrants for Development”, which is the general theme of this 2nd Forum. Let us bring ***results and delivery*** through change, and ***create opportunities for people*** in an enabling environment in the 21st century. To this end, the 2nd Meeting of ACP Ministers in charge of Asylum, Migration and Mobility, held in Brussels, Belgium on 29 and 30 May 2008 adopted a substantive ***”Resolution on Migration and Development”***, which underscores the invaluable contribution of migration and mobility to the alleviation of poverty, promotion of sustainable development, and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. This Resolution by the ACP Group is available for distribution.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I have said at the 1st Global Forum in Brussels, let us look at the challenges of migration and development in a new, positive and innovative manner. ***Migration is innovation***, and mutually reinforcing. We need to empower migrants, protect their rights and maximise their potential. The ACP Group is responding with concrete action – the ACP Secretariat, with the support of the European Commission, is implementing an ***Intra-ACP Migration Facility***, with the specific objective to integrate and mainstream migration issues into development policies by

highlighting the positive effects and complementary contribution of migration. This Facility will establish an ACP Migration Observatory to collect, process and disseminate national and regional data on migration. It will also ensure the creation of regional ACP Forums on Migration, with a view to strengthening regional and national institutional capacities in ACP States and Regions, including those of Non-State Actors.

**Mr. Chairperson,
My Co-Speakers,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In migrating from Brussels to Manila, the ACP Group is even more convinced that its close collaboration with other stakeholders, and indeed participation in this important dialogue will result in policies and programmes that are ***in the interest of all parties, and most importantly, our people***. To succeed in building a fair and just global society, ***we need a people centred approach to migration, based on promoting human dignity and mutual respect***.

I thank you for your kind attention.