

## DRAFT DECLARATION

*We the participants in the Regional Consultation on Migration, Remittances and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, 27-28 July 2006,*

*Representing* major stakeholder groups from thirteen countries of the region, namely Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru, and counting among us participants from governments, civil society entities including home town associations and other diaspora organizations, national and international non-government organizations, the business community and United Nations entities,

*Grateful* to the President of the Dominican Republic, H.E. Dr. Leonel Fernandez Reyna, for honoring this meeting with his presence and keynote statement,

*Appreciative* of the efforts of the Government of the Dominican Republic, the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (FUNGLODE), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, in keeping with the aims of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) and United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, and with financial support from Foundations and private sector companies and other contributors,

*Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances,

*Recognizing* that remittance flows are private transactions, primarily for the benefit of households, and therefore not to be confused with or considered as a substitute for official development assistance (ODA),

*Recognizing* that remittances, while representing a very significant and increasingly important flow of resources, and comprising sizeable portions of the Gross National Product (GNP) in many countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, yet remains inadequately explored, facilitated or mobilized to meet existing and future demands of senders and receivers,

*Having discussed* in our meeting numerous issues of migration, remittances and development as concerns national government relations with their diaspora, financial and other forms of support from abroad to families and others in countries of origin, the relation of migration and remittances to development and the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), characteristics of South-North and South-South migration, private sector perspectives on money transfers, banking and finance, and country experiences on matters of diaspora engagement and development,

*Wishing to convey* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations information and proposals for consideration at the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held 14-15 September 2006 at United Nations Headquarters,

1. *Recognize* with appreciation the efforts made by governments to establish high-level offices for diaspora affairs, and to promote participation by diaspora communities at their request in the political life and the economic and social development of their home countries,

11. Welcome the exchange of information on specific situations and innovative practices that emerged from this meeting, and recommend that governments and international agencies including UNDP, in cooperation with other stakeholders, take further measures to gather and promote availability of relevant demographic and other social and economic data particularly in the informal sector, best practices and lessons learned, so as to facilitate greater understanding, support and synergies;

12. Urge UNDP to use the results of this meeting as a platform for new policies and capacity development initiatives at all levels, particularly at the local level, in response to needs and opportunities identified by stakeholders;

13. Request the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to give particular attention to the proposals in this Declaration; which represent a unique contribution from parties representing or active in relation to matters of migration, remittances and development in the Latin America and Caribbean region.