

My Country, till the beginning of the 70's has been a migrant's origin country and an important number of Greek families have migrated to the United States, Australia, South Africa, Germany and many other countries around the world.

Nowadays this situation has been totally reversed and the last 20 years we became a destination country, receiving a considerable number of migrants from neighbouring and other countries.

Drawing conclusions from our own - two-way - experience, we believe, as all of us participating in this forum, that migration, if properly managed, can foster closer ties between countries of origin, transit and destination and contribute to development in both the migrant's origin country and the host state as well.

Therefore, we consider that it is extremely important to actively pursue this constructive dialogue, successfully initiated within the GFMD.

Identifying and endorsing appropriate policies in these areas will also contribute to substantial poverty reduction as well as to the successful achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

During our discussions, it has been very rightly pointed out that there is a number of areas where a **real partnership** and a **shared responsibility** of migrant's origin as well host countries are necessary, in order to establish a coherent and comprehensive approach to migration and development.

Allow me to congratulate the Philippines' Presidency, once more, for identifying several issues of crucial importance to all of our countries for the agenda of our next meeting in Manila, such as the rights of migrants or the control of irregular migration practices, particularly by smugglers and traffickers.

In order to forge this **partnership to the benefit of all our countries and of our people, building upon the achievements of the previous and the actual Presidencies, Greece is willing to actively participate in furthering the dialogue and wishes to propose to host the 3rd Global Forum on Migration and Development in our country, in 2009.**