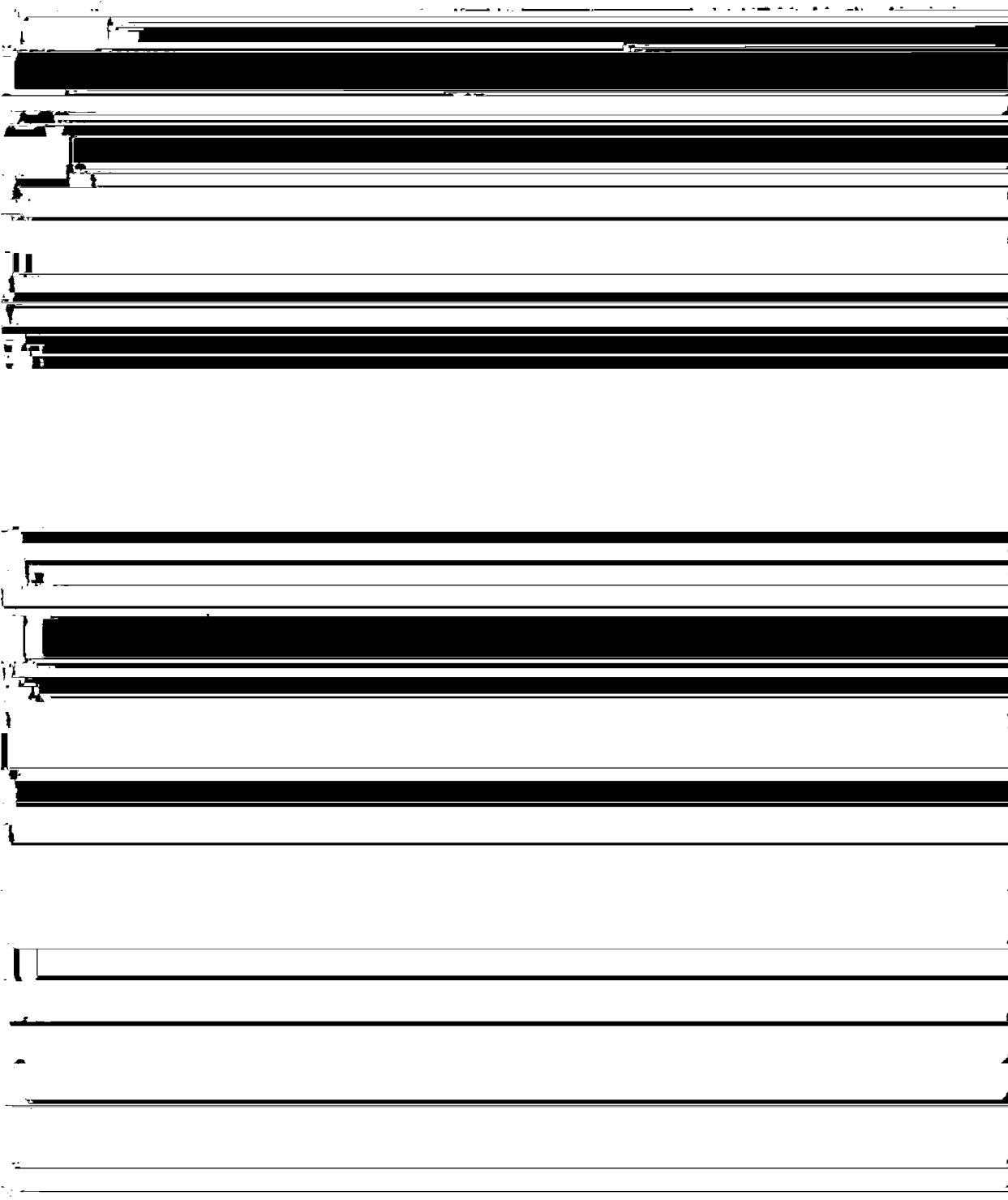


STATEMENT BY
HE MRS FEKITAMOELOA 'UTOIKAMANU
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT THE
61ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
14-15 SEPTEMBER 2006

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Madam President

May I take this opportunity to convey our appreciation for the convening of this historical High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. I also thank the Secretary General for his report which brings out a comprehensive review of the multidimensional aspects of international migration as well as initial thoughts on how to improve the governance of migration.



Tonga like many other Pacific Island countries is not only a sending state, but is also a transit and a receiving state. The challenge for all of us is therefore to design migration policy that is closest to what the Secretary General described in his report as the "best case" scenario.....where "it benefits the receiving country, the country of origin and migrants themselves". This will require