



IOM International Organization for Migration

OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE

53rd SESSION OF THE

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) appreciates the opportunity to take part in this debate and would like to make a few comments on the challenges that urbanization and migration place on migrant families, particularly on women left behind, in terms of social responsibilities and household tasks, as well as the special problems posed by gender inequalities in the labour market.

Mr. President,

First, countries of origin are increasingly dependent on the significant amount of

Health is a labor intensive and labor dependent service. While these nurses and doctors have helped care for the aging populations in developed countries, the situation in their countries of origin has become dire. The emigration of health care professions has become a major impediment to the functioning of some national healthcare systems, often leaving patients without the necessary care and burdening family members and relatives with care giving responsibilities they are not qualified to perform.

Finally, Mr. President, as the Secretary-General's report states, "*the gender-based division of labour and undervaluing of care work in the household have been replicated in the public sphere. Women do more unaid care work than men and they are also overrepresented in the*

paid care sector, in both developing and developed countries. Although the wages and working conditions of paid care workers vary across employment categories and skills levels

many care workers receive lower wages than workers with comparable skills levels in non-care related occupations. The lower status and pay of care work is a result of the
