

**COMITE DE APOYO A LOS TRABAJADORES AGRICOLAS
FARMWORKERS SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

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**Oral Intervention to the Informal Interactive Hearings
of the General Assembly with non-governmental
organizations, civil society organizations and the private
sector on international migration and development
*Held at United Nations Headquarters
12 July 2006, New York***

**Oral Intervention presented during Session 1: Promoting a
comprehensive rights-based approach to international
migration, and ensuring respect for and protection of the
human rights of all migrants and their families.**

Thank you. I am representing both CATA, an immigrant workers' organization, and the NGO Subcommittee on the Human Rights of Immigrants and Refugees. I would like to first express my support for statements made by my colleagues in Civil Society and the NGO community - in particular the need for further ratification of the International Convention, and the specific vulnerability of undocumented or irregular migrants.

We are concerned by the framing of this debate as set forth in the Secretary General's report - not only the marginalization of human rights as a subject but also the segregation of the topics of human rights and development. This concern was, by the way, fully confirmed by the audio presentation we heard this morning. In reality we cannot discuss development without discussing what *model* of development we are referring to. The Secretary General's report unfortunately promotes the current neoliberal model that is further exacerbating the division of wealth between rich and poor countries, which further increases the rate of migration. This is reflected in the solutions set forth in the report, such as the promotion of temporary worker programs, which institutionalize the exploitability of migrant workers, allowing receiving nations to maximize their own economic benefit without having to grant full rights to migrant workers.

In conclusion, I would like to challenge member states to think about, analyze, and respond to the following question: How would a deeper commitment to human rights on the part of both wealthy and less wealthy nations, sending and receiving countries, improve progress towards a more equitable worldwide development, thereby reducing the pressure to migrate, and ensuring that all migration that does take place is truly voluntary?