

CLOSING ADDRESS BY :

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM

“THE ROLE OF YOUTH ON POVERTY AND MIGRATION ERADICATION”

13-15 APRIL 2009

TOURISM VILLAGE TRIPOLI, LIBYA

Invited guest,

International Youth Forum participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

During the past few days members and representatives from various governments, youth organisations, NGOs and other interested parties have gathered here in Tripoli to discuss the critical issue of poverty and migration eradication and in particular the role the youth can play in achieving this.

I would like to highlight a few points that arose during our discussions here. First, we have been made more aware that poverty and migration is not simply about lack money but also includes social discrimination, exclusion from the decision-making process and lack of access to essential resources such as education, health, security, opportunities.

Secondly, according to the statistics youth are one of the highest demographic affected by poverty and migration. This brings me to my third point: if we as the youth don't do anything the vicious cycle of poverty and migration will continue and will be passed down to the next generation. With each generation it is passed down to this cycle gets harder and harder to break. We have discussed what role youth can play and our discussions bore fruit to a declaration which will act as a guideline for youth around the world.

Finally, many people believe that eradicating poverty and migration is more of an ideal than a realistic target. However, Carl Schurz the famous revolutionary, statesman and reformer once said that: "Our ideals resemble the stars, which illuminate the night. No one will ever be able to touch them. But the men who, like the sailors on the ocean, take them for guides, will undoubtedly reach their

goal.” If we take the ideal of poverty eradication as a guide I am confident that we can achieve our goals.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed in one way or another towards the success of this event. I thank our sponsors, speakers, facilitators, supporters, volunteers and participants of this dialogue. The World Assembly of Youth gives special recognition to the National Organisation of Libyan Youth (NOLY), the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation and the Melaka State Government.

I believe that you have all enjoyed your stay here and will have pleasant memories of Libya. I wish you all a safe trip as you travel back to your respective countries.

Thank you.