Introduction

Substantial changes in government perceptions of migration trends took place in the second half of 1970s and the early 1980s.

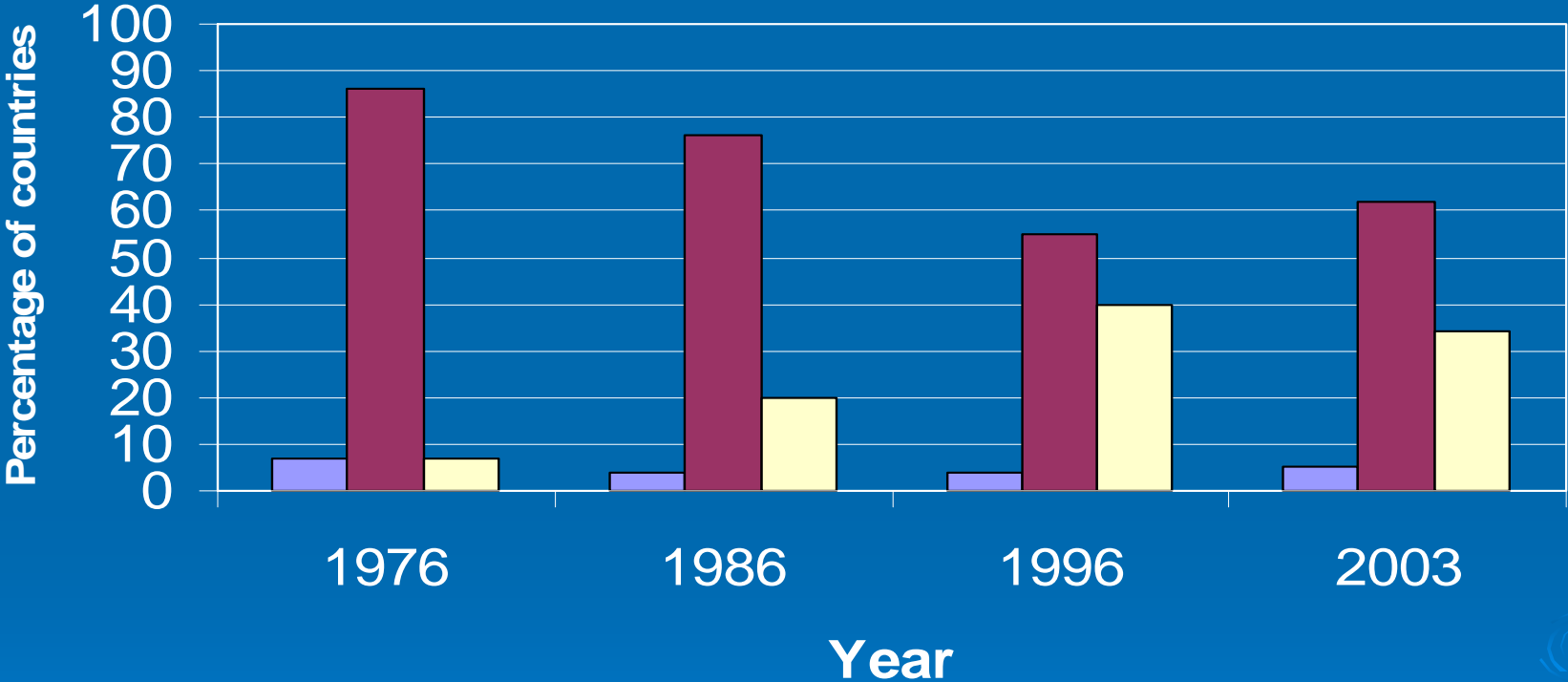Migration has become prominent in the national and international agenda since the 1990s

OUTLINE

Government Immigration Policies

Skilled worker migration

Growing number of countries are promoting the migration of skilled workers; at the same time that increasing restrictiveness towards overall migration in receiving countries is becoming common.

A number of receiving countries have enacted legislation placing greater emphasis on migrants skills. For example

Germany (2000 Green Card Initiative)

United Kingdom (2002 Highly Skilled Migration Programme)

United States (2000 H1-B visas)

Bilateral agreements (skilled and unskilled migrants)

- Germany-Poland
- Italy-Tunisia
- Spain-Morocco

New trends within OECD countries to encourage the international migration of highly skilled workers

Family reunification

For a number of countries, family reunification is the predominant mode of entry.

Most countries of immigration accept some migrants on the ground of family reunification; some countries give it preference.

Undocumented migration

Countries clamping down on undocumented migration (including trafficking/smuggling)

Undocumented migration is increasing and is a major concern in almost all receiving countries. This translates into:

Extension of legal competencies

More stringent requirements for visa issuance;

Tighter border security (e.g. fingerprinting and photograph); increased use of technological measures;

Regularization programmes

Bilateral agreements for readmission

- Poland-Russian Federation
- Ireland-Nigeria
- Spain-Colombia, Dominican Republic
- Spain-Morocco (nationals and those transiting)

Regional and subregional harmonization

International Initiatives

International instruments:

Migrant worker convention 1990 (entered into force on 1/7/2003)

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children 2000 (entered into force on 25/12/2003)

Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air 2000 (entered into force on 28/1/2004)

Report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening the United Nations: An Agenda for Change

United Nations General Assembly

Report of Secretary-General on international migration and development

Resolution of 23 December 2003 calling for High Level Dialogue in 2006 on international migration and development

Establishment of the Global Commission on International Migration (2003)

Emigration Policies

Sending countries:

Despite increasing volume of migration, percentage of countries aiming to lower emigration remains at one-quarter since 1980s.

South Africa-United Kingdom (U.K agrees not recruit health professionals from South Africa)

Eleven countries seek to raise emigration
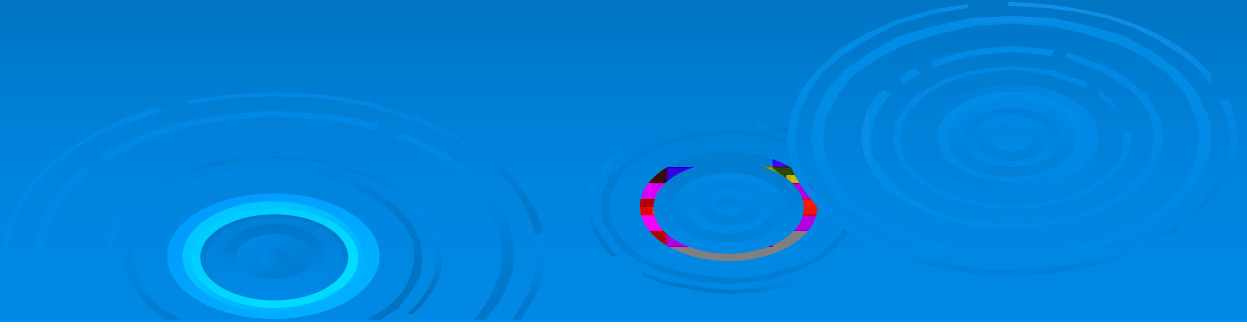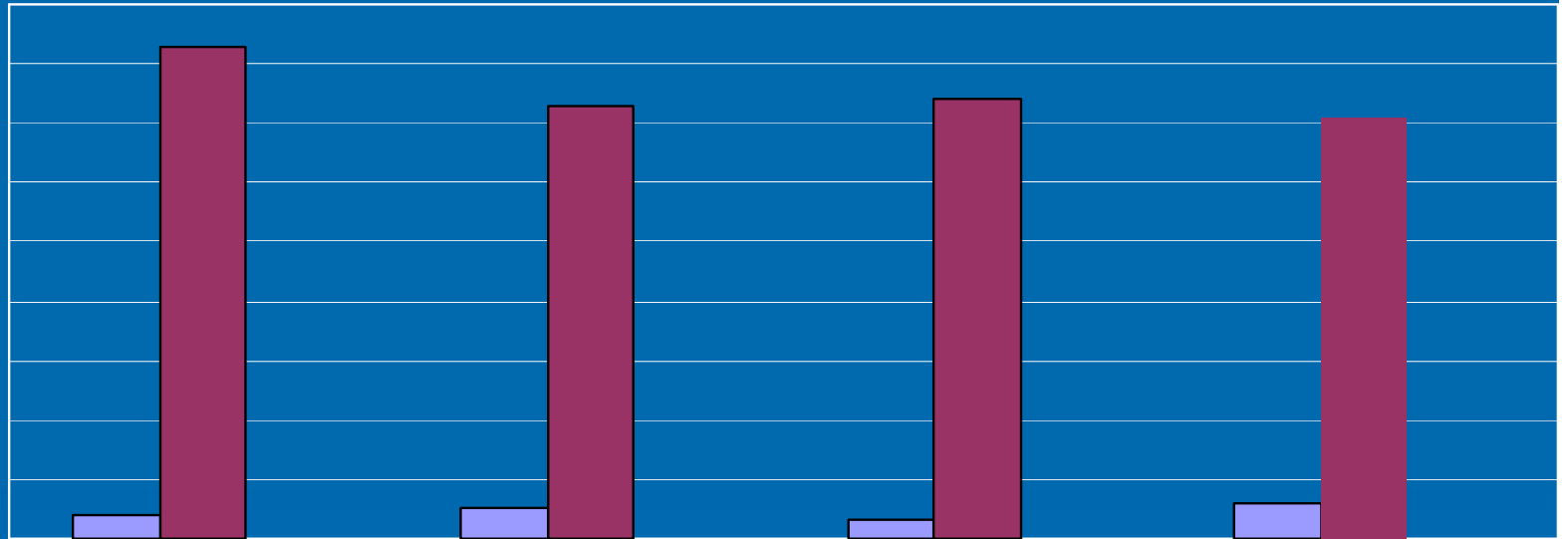
Government units to manage migration

- Bangladesh, India, Philippines

Countries less inclined to encourage return migration.

Establishing linkage programmes with nationals abroad El Savador, Mexico, Morocco).

Recognizing dual citizenship

Government Emigration Policies

Conclusions

Migration will remain at forefront of national and international agendas for foreseeable future

- With low fertility and population ageing, immigration needed to fill labour shortages, forestall population decline, sustain economic growth

  For sending countries, migration major source of foreign exchange from remittances ($75 billion)

Making migration work for all countries, while respecting rights and responsibilities of migrants is a major challenge and opportunity

"Only through cooperation can we build partnerships, make migration a driver of development, fight smugglers and traffickers and agree on standards for the treatment of migrants and the management of migration."