



## **SCHEMA DI APPROFONDIMENTO N° 36**

### **International Migration Policies: An Overview**

**United Nations  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Population Division**

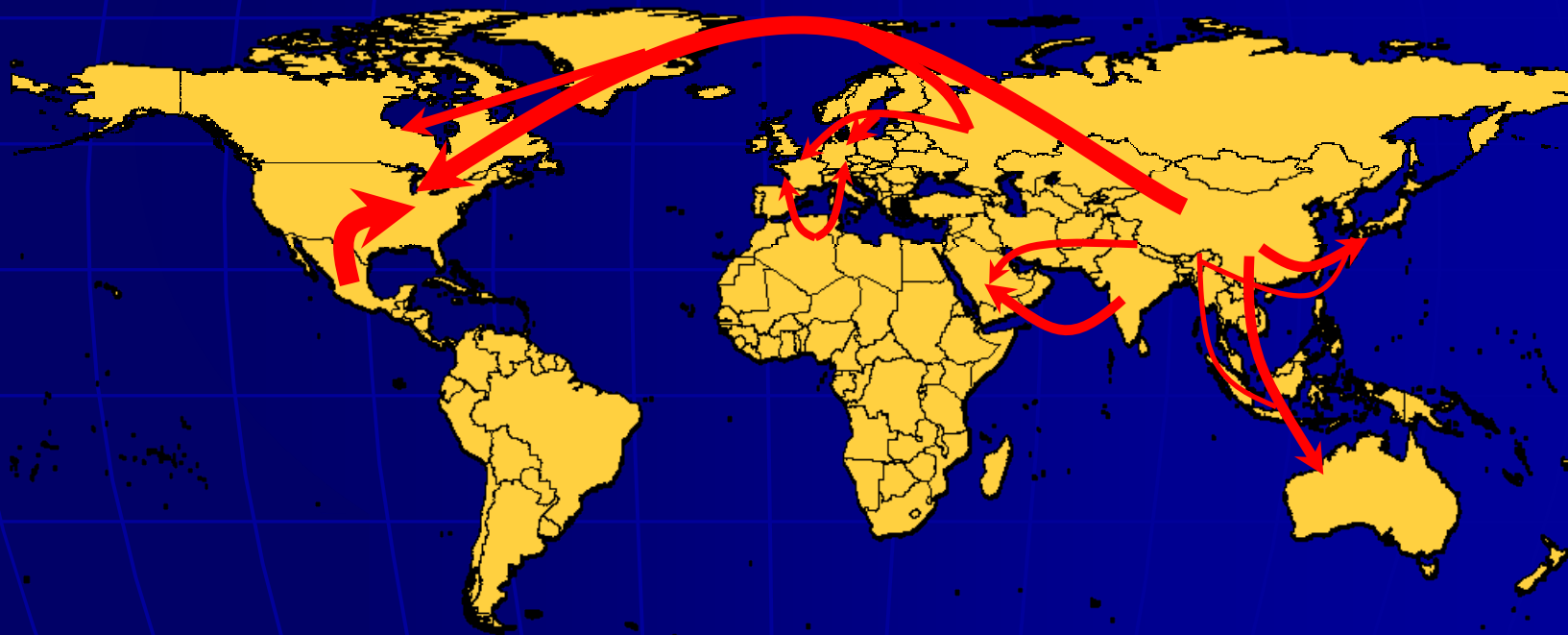
**BARRY MIRKIN**

---

***A cura di Sisifo Italia - Ufficio Stampa MIM***

Responsabile: Giuseppe Lanzi, 335.66.98.734 [giuseppelanzi@scalabrini.net](mailto:giuseppelanzi@scalabrini.net)  
Email: [development@scalabrini.net](mailto:development@scalabrini.net) WEB [www.meetingloreto.it](http://www.meetingloreto.it) [www.sisifoitalia.it](http://www.sisifoitalia.it)  
infoline: 071.7500256 – Fax 071.7501972

# International Migration Policies: An Overview



United Nations  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Population Division



**What is driving  
international  
migration?**

# Countries of destination:

- Sub-replacement fertility/  
population ageing
- Labour shortages
- Improved transportation and  
communications

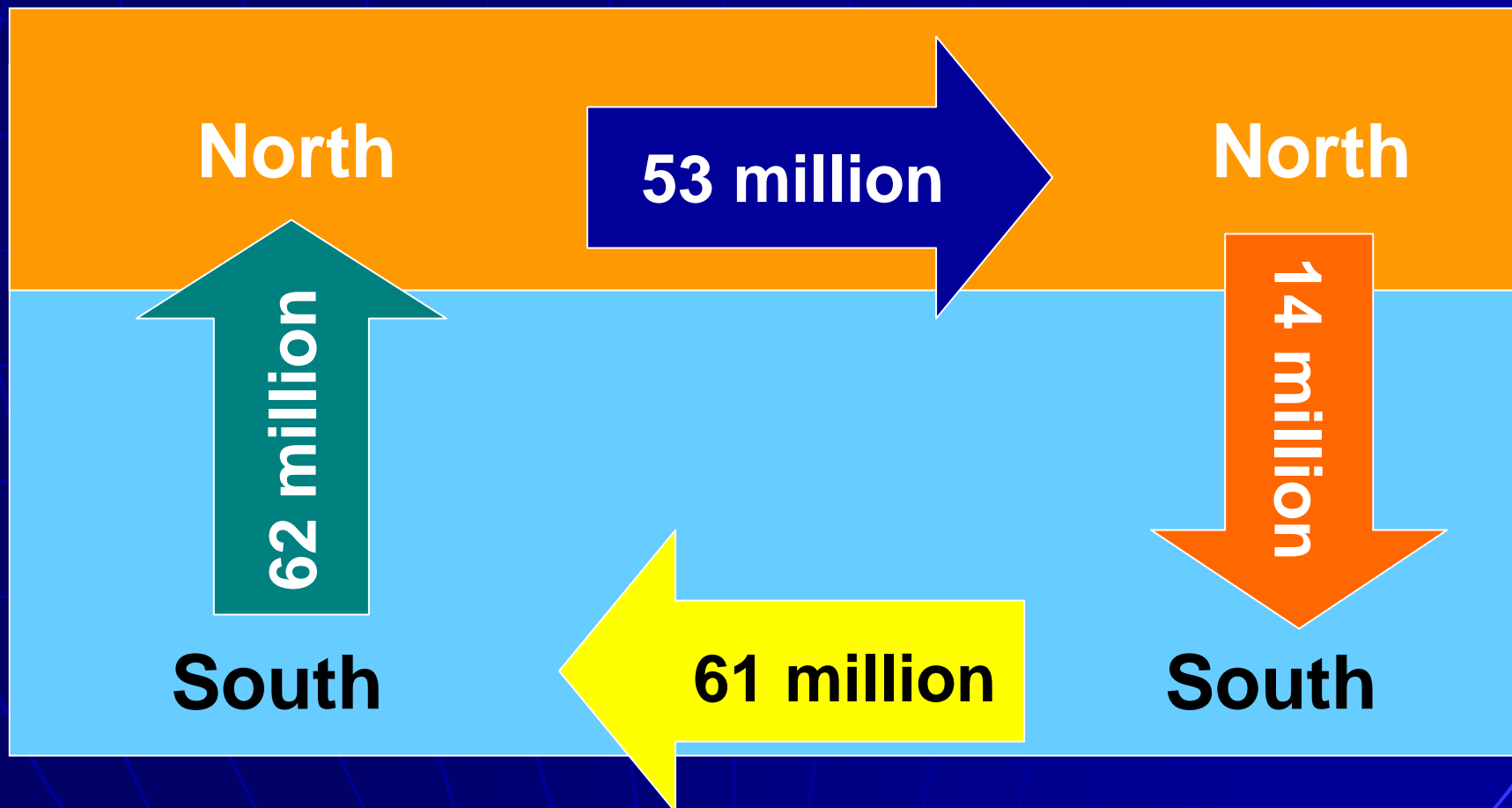
# Countries of origin:

- High population growth
- Unemployment
- Political, social and ethnic conflict

# Result:

- 191 million migrants
- 13 million migrants (2000-2005)
- US\$ 262 billion remittances

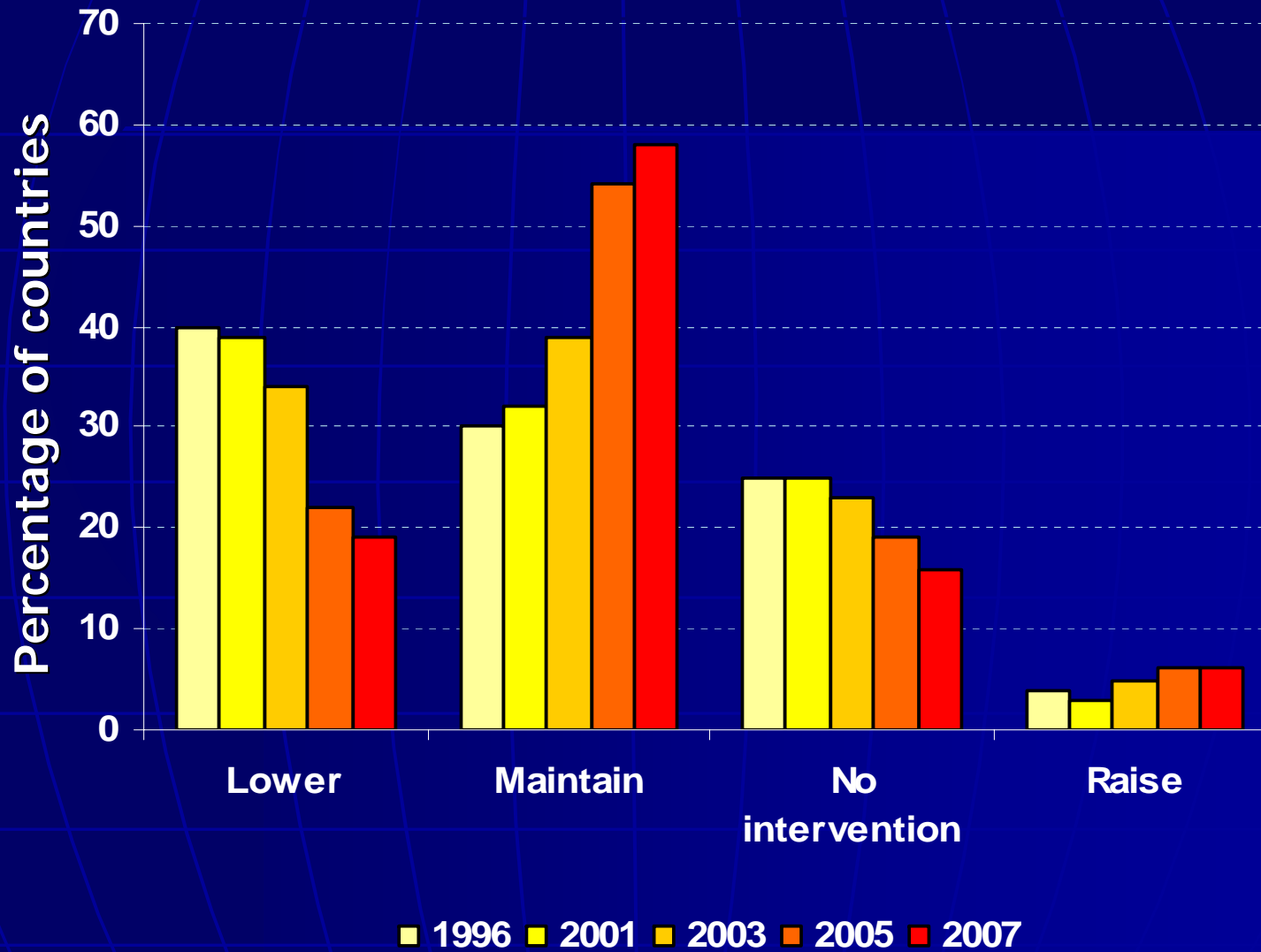
# Migrant stock is almost equally divided into three types





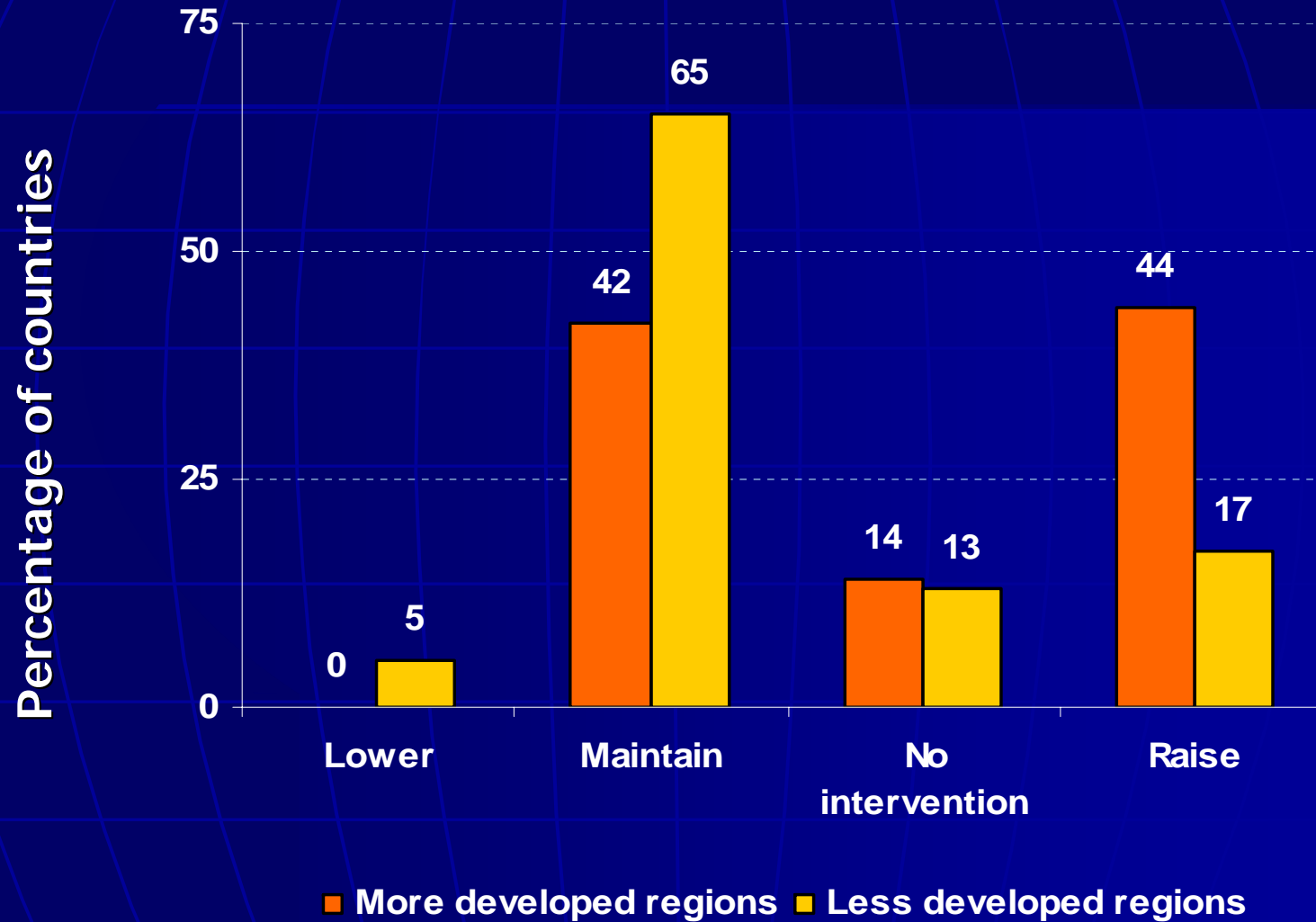
# **Government policies on immigration**

# Immigration policies

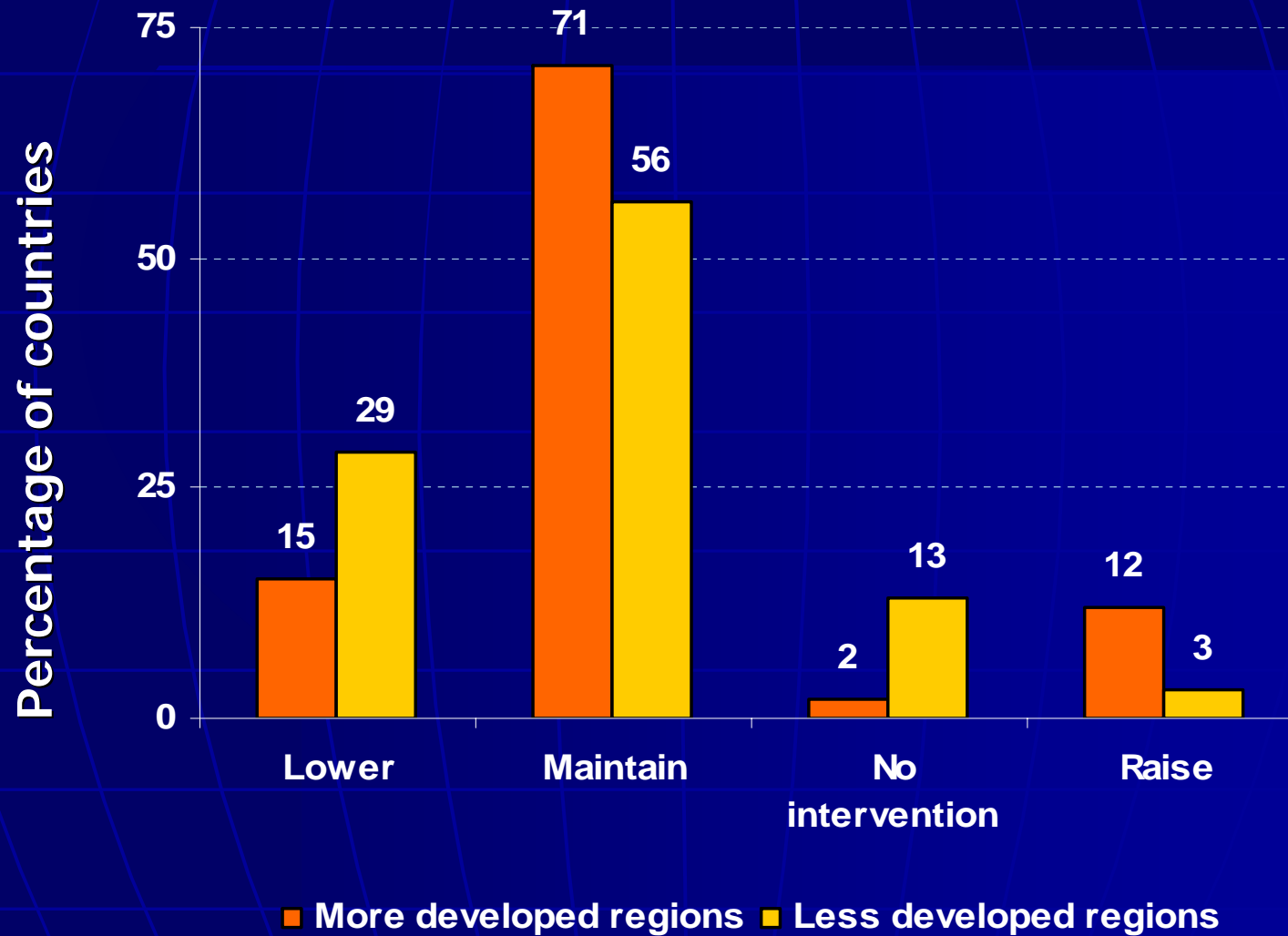




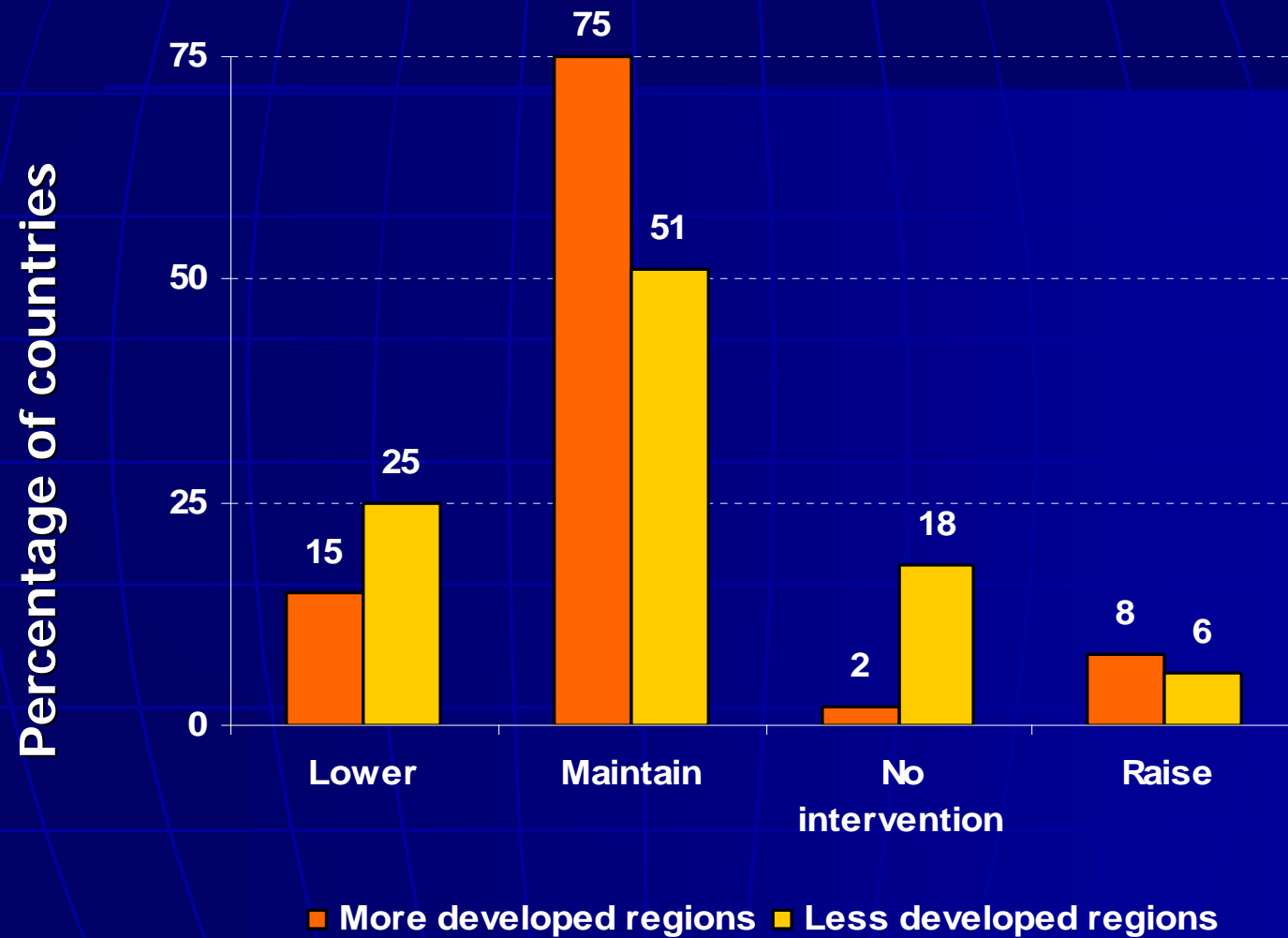
# Highly skilled workers



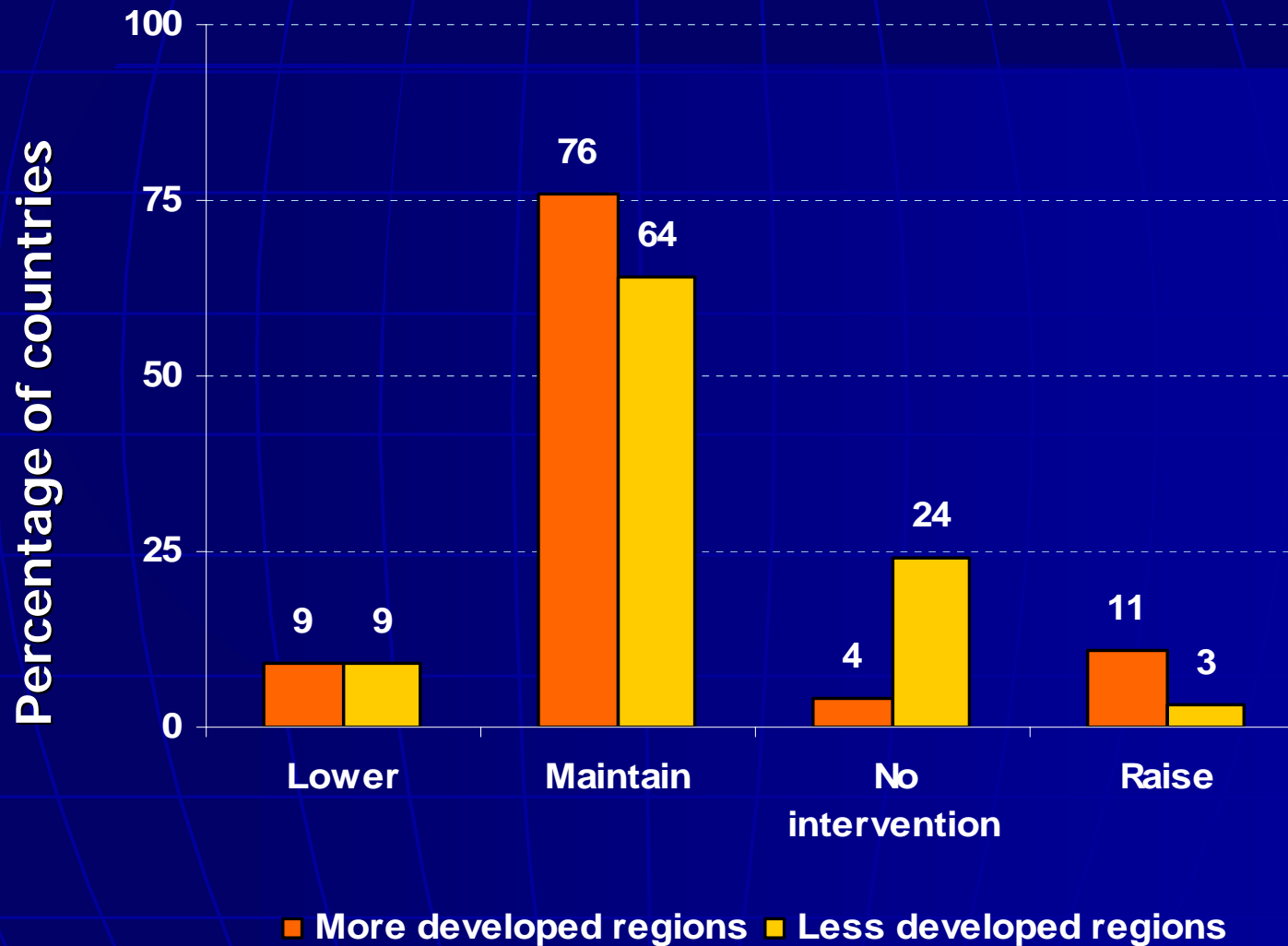
# Temporary migration



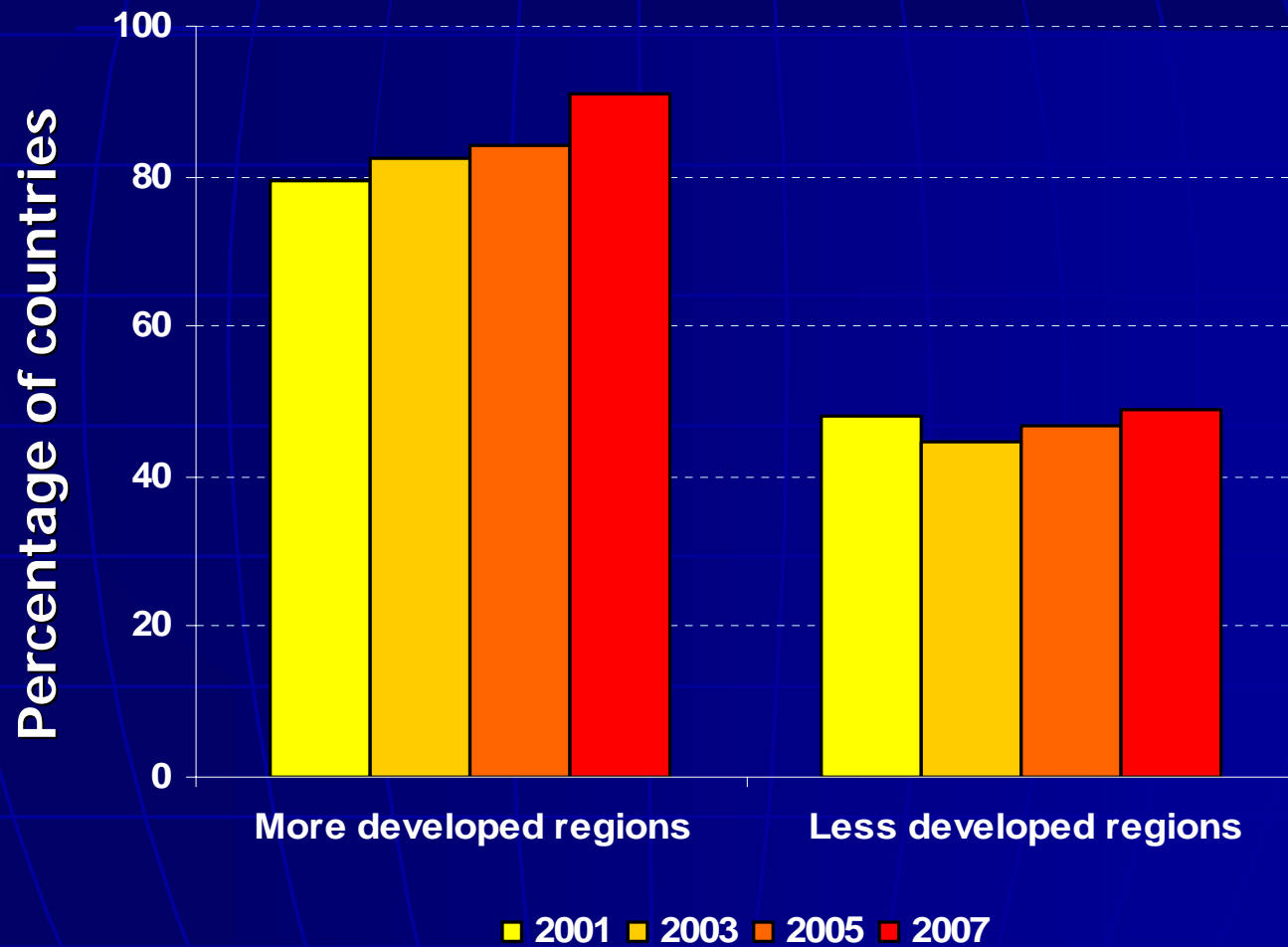
# Permanent settlement



# Family reunification



# Integration of non-nationals



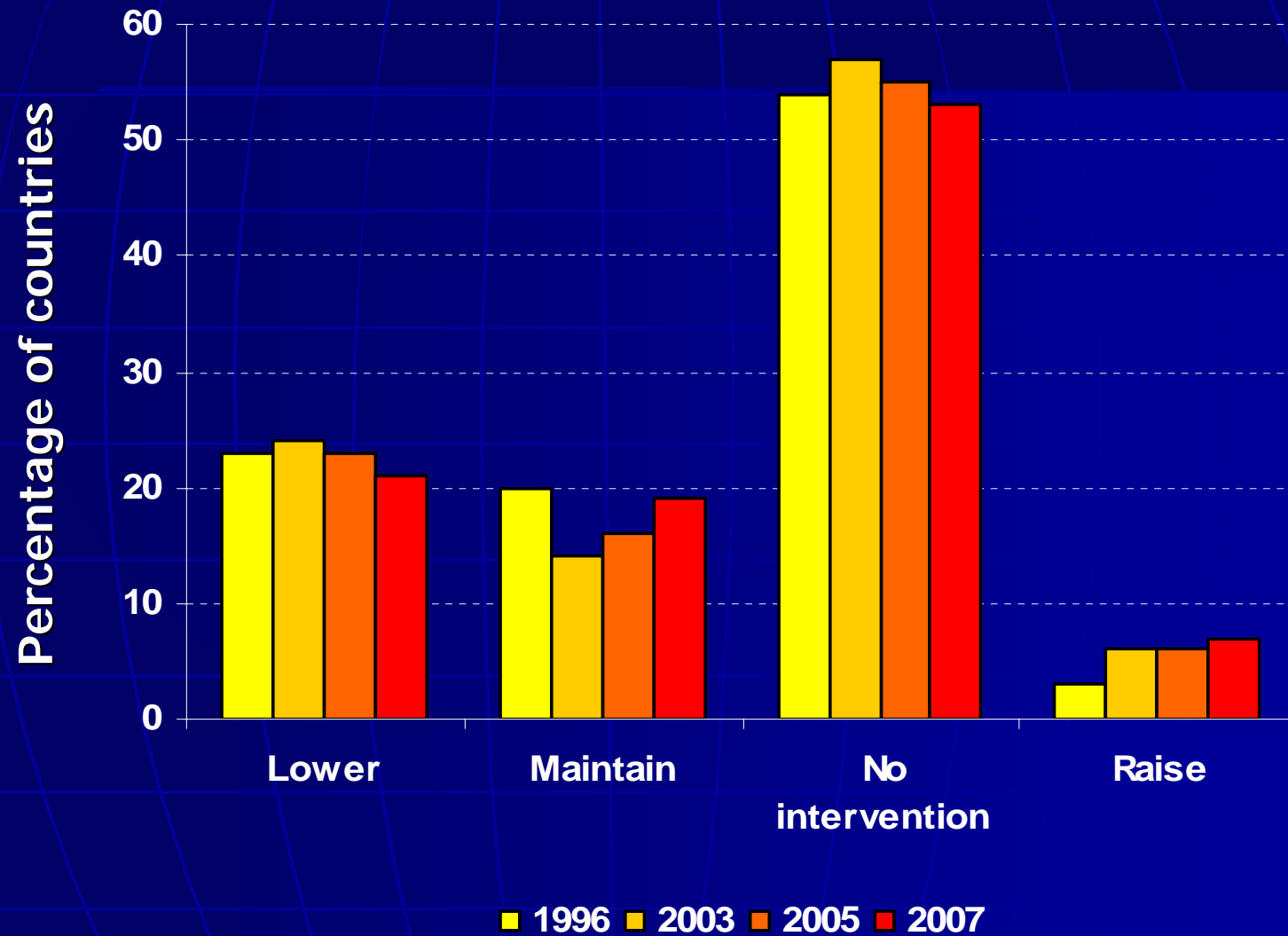
# Countries clamping down on irregular migration

- More stringent visa requirements
- Tighter border security
- Regularization programmes  
(about 5.5 million regularized)
- Bilateral readmission agreements

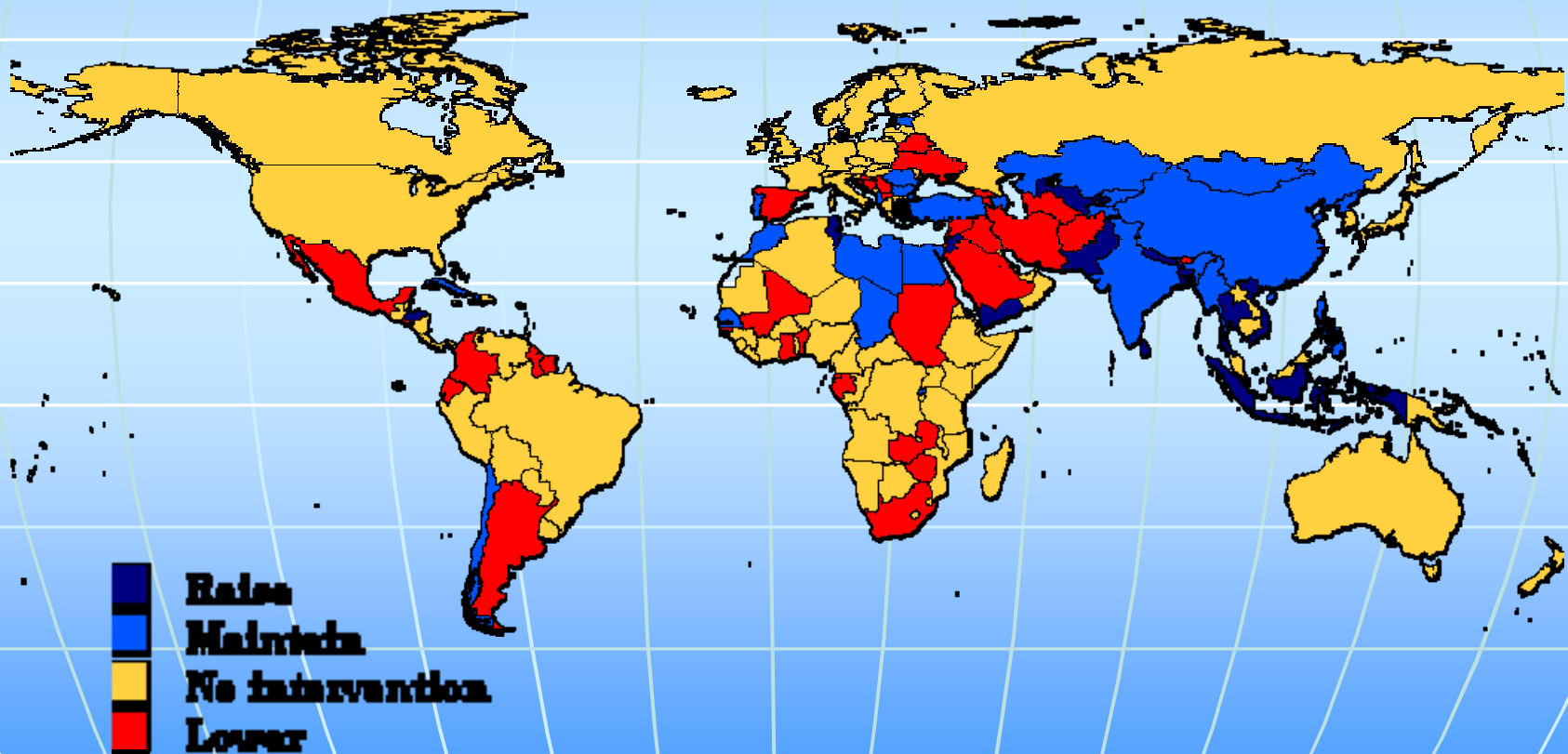


# **Government policies on emigration**

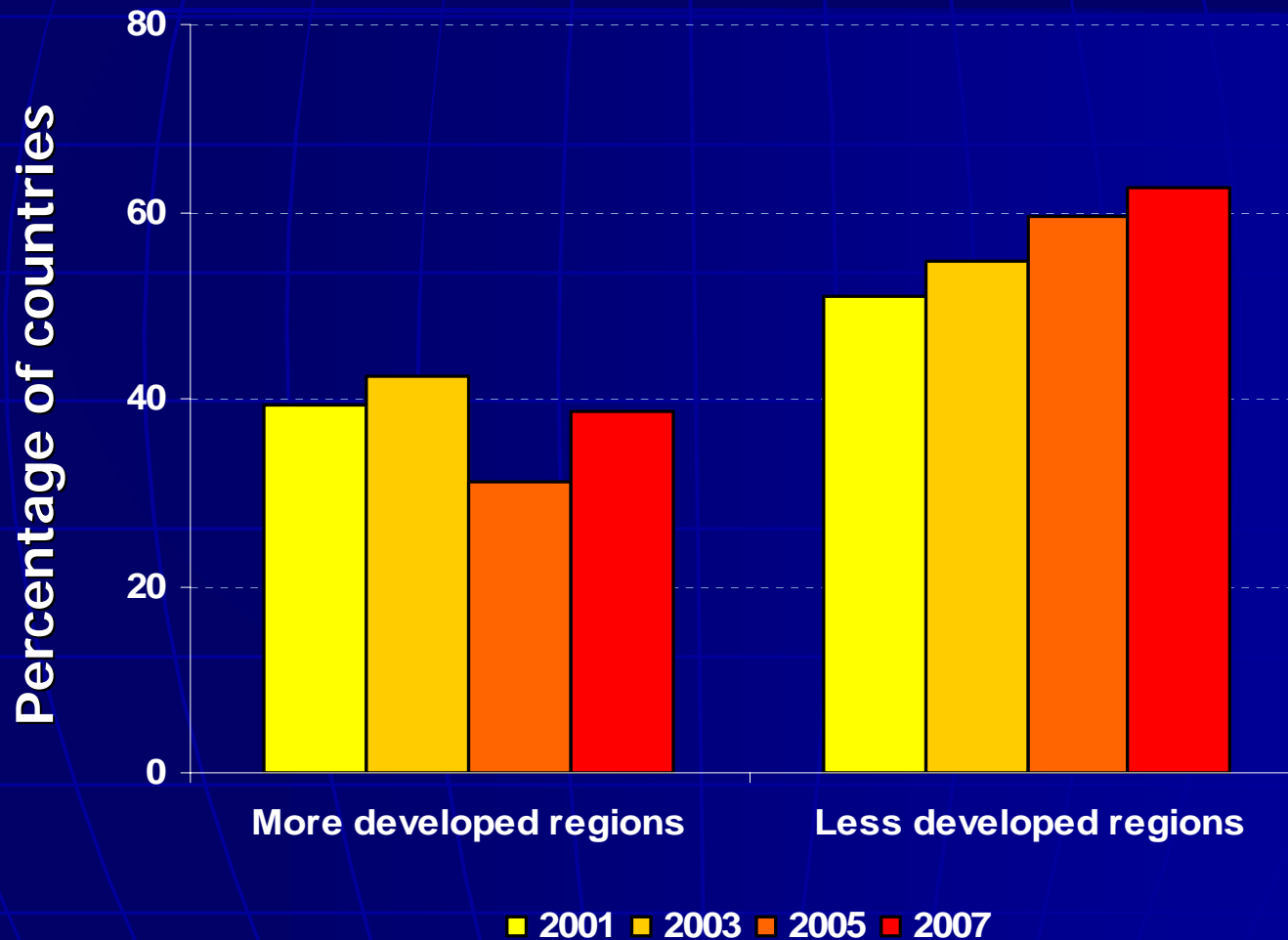
# Emigration policies



# Emigration policies 2007



# Encourage the return of migrants



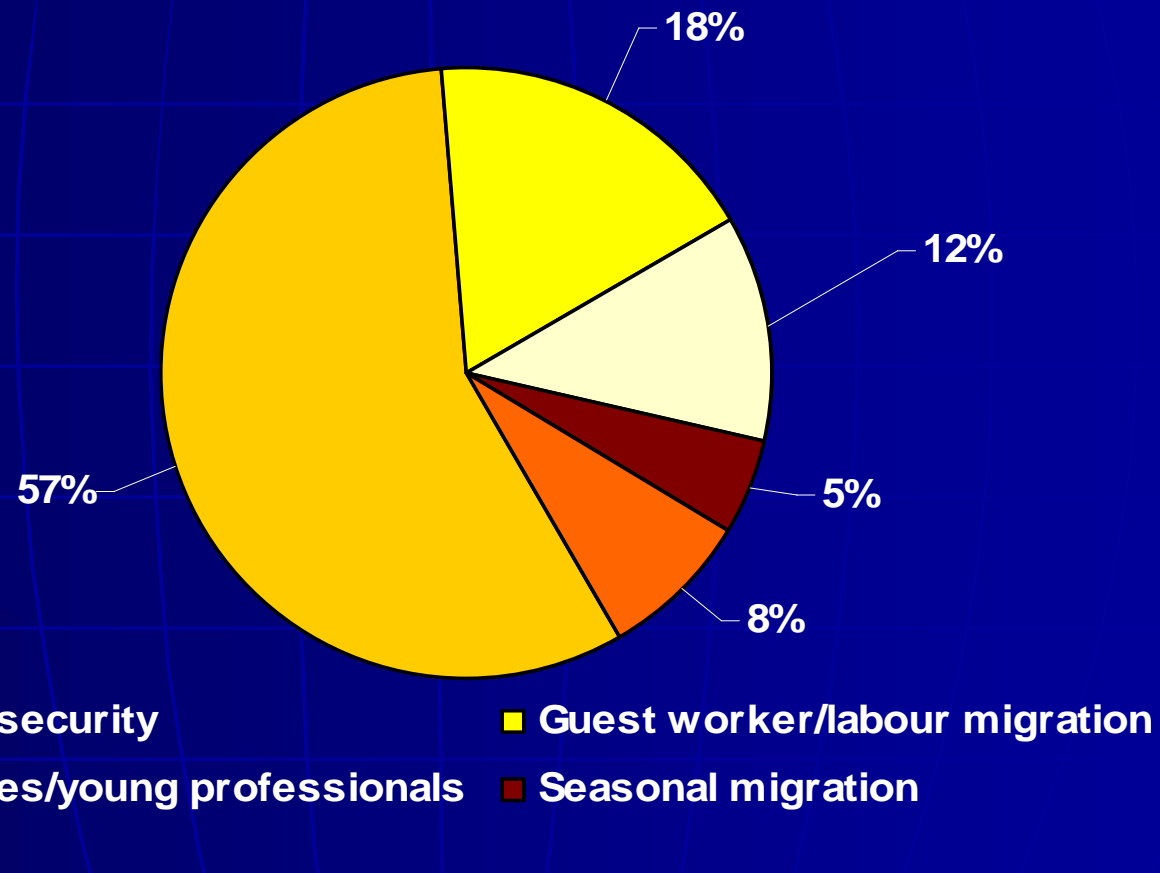


# **Bilateral initiatives**

# Bilateral initiatives

- 595 agreements  
( $\frac{1}{2}$  in 10 countries)
- 320 readmission agreements
- > number of agreements

# Type of bilateral agreements





# **Regional initiatives**

# Regional agreements

- European Union
- Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

# Informal consultative processes

At least:

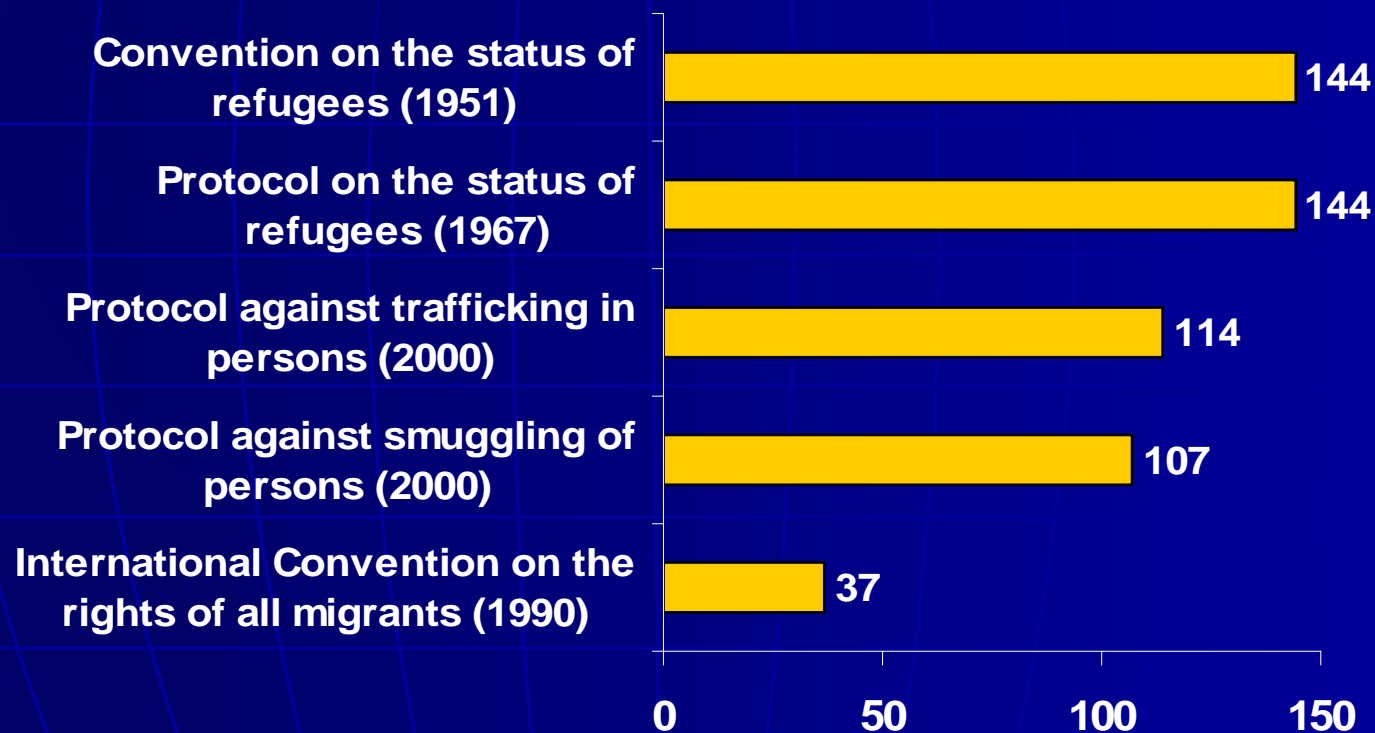
Africa	2
Americas	2
Asia	3
Europe	4



# Global initiatives

# Status of ratification of international legal instruments

(Number of countries)



# Global initiatives

- **United Nations General Assembly**

High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (September 2006)

Consensus: Migration positive force for development if supported by appropriate policies

# Global initiatives

- **Global Forum on Migration and Development**

Informal, voluntary, state-driven process  
Promote closer cooperation among Governments  
No negotiated outcomes or normative decisions

**2007: Brussels**

Network of 150 focal points  
Friends of the Forum  
Marketplace for the development of partnerships

**2008: Manila**

**2009: Denmark, Netherlands or ?**

# Conclusions

## **1. 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 many countries of origin, remittances are a major source of foreign exchange

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

# Conclusions

3. "It is for Governments to decide whether more or less migration is desirable. Our focus in the international community should be on the quality and safety of the migration experience and on what can be done to maximize its development benefits."

Report of the Secretary-General on  
International migration and development

**For more information, visit the  
Population Division web site:**



<http://www.unpopulation.org>