



STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA**

AT THE

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ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
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Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

At the outset we wish to express our appreciation to the outgoing members of the Council Bureau, led by His Excellency Juan Eduardo Eguiguren, for their dedication and hard work over the past year. We further take this opportunity to welcome the chairmanship of His Excellency Negash Kebret Batora and members of the incoming Bureau and assure them of our support.

As this is the first time I am addressing this august body, I also wish to extend congratulations to His Excellency António Vitorino on his assumption at the helm of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) last month. Director-General, please be assured of our continued commitment and support to the principles and purpose underpinning this organization and to the mandate which has been ascribed to it. We further acknowledge the significant role that the IOM will be called upon to perform as the coordinator and secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration and in the implementation phase of the soon to be adopted Global Compact on Migration. We acknowledge the gender-sensitive, child responsive and multistakeholder approach taken in the Compact. To this end, we stand ready to continue building on the course which has already been charted over the years and cooperating with you on your future endeavours and initiatives.

As a member of the IOM since 2009, we remain committed to the goal of sustainable migration management amidst the realities of mixed flows. Whilst we are cognizant of the challenges, we note the opportunities for development which can be realized from safe, orderly and regular migration.

Over the past year, the IOM has collaborated to provide direct assistance to vulnerable persons in the form of temporary accommodation, food, medical and psychological support; support in resettlement and assisted

voluntary return processes; and capacity-building training in Migrant Protection and Assistance for frontline officials.

We remain optimistic that our participation in the Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of Criminal Justice Actors in the Caribbean to Counter Trafficking in Persons using a Victim Centred Approach Project (funded by the United States Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons); in the ACP-EU Migration Action initiative; and other like processes would contribute positively to addressing gaps in the counter-trafficking architecture and combatting migrant smuggling. We take note of the IOM's wealth of experience, expertise and guidelines on various sectors on the migration management spectrum. In this vein, we look forward to continue working together to see how best these can be tailored and be made applicable to our national contexts.

We remain appreciative of the recruitment of additional local staff in the Port of Spain office as well as the dialogue policy process embodied in the Caribbean Migration Consultations framework. In the latter regard, it may be recalled that Trinidad and Tobago hosted the First Technical Workshop in 2016 and the First Workshop in relation to the Counter-Trafficking Network in 2018. Trinidad and Tobago welcomes future constructive engagement with the IOM through the continued support from the offices in Port of Spain, Georgetown and San José and the preservation of the excellent relationship with the office here in Geneva.

I thank you.