

DECLARATION OF THE GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES (GRULAC)

113TH SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL

General Debate

- November 30, 2022-

(Duration 5 minutes)

Thank you, Mr. Director General,

I am honored to make this intervention on behalf of GRULAC, to express our recognition of the leadership shown by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in a complex international scenario with impact on migratory movements at the international level.

GRULAC expresses its appreciation for the work carried out by the Director General, António Vitorino, and his team, and emphasizes that the joint work of all States at the multilateral level is essential for the fulfillment of the organization's mandate and offers a way to achieve sustainable results that have an impact on a robust global migration governance and improve the living conditions of migrant populations around the world.

According to the World Migration Report 2022, the last 50 years have seen an increasing trend in the numbers of migrants, reaching 281 million in 2020. This reflects the fact that population movements are not a contemporary phenomenon and that they change according to the contexts, times and socio-political conditions of countries, generating new dynamics.

International migration has been a central and inseparable part of the history of Latin America and the Caribbean. The region continues to be a point of origin, transit, destination and return of migrants, and our countries have demonstrated their commitment to initiatives that promote safe, orderly and regular migration in this context.

That is why we remain committed to coordinated work at the universal, regional and national levels through debate and constructive dialogue, as an engine that will facilitate coordination to find lasting responses to the needs of migrants, under a shared responsibility approach.

Latin America and the Caribbean has contributed to the global debate on migration, ensuring the mainstream of human rights of migrants at various regional fora. Also, GRULAC has significantly contributed to global migration governance through the adoption of new national policies and legislation in accordance with today's dynamics of migration, as well as with a multiplicity of regional and subregional mechanisms that allow the exchange of information, sharing of good practices and the identification of and response to common challenges.

The work undertaken by the IOM, in particular, and the UN system in general, is fundamental to improve the understanding of the migration phenomenon and thereby identify effective solutions. In this regard, we support actions aimed at achieving regular, orderly and safe migration through technical assistance from IOM, the United Nations Migration Network and other relevant initiatives to achieve our objectives in a sustainable manner.

Similarly, GRULAC highlights the essential role that the private sector, academia, civil society and non-governmental organizations play in international migration, as well as the importance of generating strategic partnerships.

All actors involved, especially States, must join forces to address common challenges through the implementation of positive migration governance that is reflected in effective frameworks and policies, with respect for human rights, and with channels for dialogue and international cooperation.

Finally, we are mindful that safe, orderly and regular migration is a powerful driver of sustainable development, as recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We welcome and support the application of Barbados for membership to this Organization, becoming the 175th member state, and bringing IOM even closer to universal membership.

Our region reiterates its commitment to intensify efforts to work together with the IOM, an issue that will result in a better quality of life, not only for migrants, but for our societies in general.

Thank you very much.