



STATEMENT

BY

JAMAICA

ON

**THE OCCASION OF THE 114TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
GENERAL DEBATE**

GENEVA

29TH NOVEMBER 2023

Please check against delivery

Thank you, Madam Chair,

On behalf of the Government of Jamaica, I extend congratulations on your election as Chair of this session and thank the members of the Bureau for judiciously guiding the work of the Council.

My delegation also congratulates Ms. Amy Pope on her election as the first female Director General and wishes to assure her of Jamaica's support during her tenure.

As one of four key priorities identified by the IOM leadership, we are heartened by the fact that climate change and human mobility is the focus of this session. It is also quite timely given that COP 28 marks the conclusion of the first Global Stocktake and, it is our sincere hope, that the international community will respond with a clear plan of action, to bridge the gaps needed to meet the goal of keeping temperatures at 1.5°C below pre-industrial levels.

Excellencies,

Jamaica is categorized as a predominantly emigration country, and being situated in the second most disaster-prone region in the world makes us more susceptible to the effects of climate change. The economic effect of extreme climatic events in Jamaica between 1999 and 2021 has been significant - costing approximately US\$870.1 million and has impacted the lives and livelihood of many Jamaicans. Such catastrophic events have served to derail many of the development gains we have made over the years.

Madam Chair,

The Government has taken tangible measures to adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change on its citizenry. The Public Order, Safety and Security thematic area of Jamaica's National Policy on International Migration and Development recognises that the Jamaican state is responsible for protecting and assisting crisis-affected persons in its territory and intermediate outcome 5 speaks to the Adoption of a Migrants in Crisis Framework. This is to ensure that during natural disasters and other emergencies, vulnerable migrants have access to basic services.

Despite these efforts, the support of partners remains critical. We welcome the assistance received from the IOM to build the country's capacity. In this connection, we wish to highlight the implementation of the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) project and our participation in the First Regional Conference for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on Human Mobility and Climate Change held in Colombia earlier this month.

Excellencies,

I conclude by reiterating that the issue of human mobility and climate change is an area that we are taking seriously as a country. The steps that I have outlined demonstrate the significance of the issue and underscores our willingness to both learn from our partners with more expertise in this area and to implement the strategies required. We look forward to the continued support of the IOM as we harness the benefits of migration for national development while ensuring the rights of all migrants.

Thank you.