

**General Debate**  
**Statement by Jamaica**  
**115<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council**  
**27 November 2024**

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Thank you Chair,

I extend congratulations to you on your election as Chair of the Session and thank the members of the Bureau for effectively guiding the work of the Council. My delegation also wishes to convey appreciation to DG Pope for her able leadership of the organisation over the past year, as well as for her regular engagement with Member States to update on the work of the organisation and receive feedback.

Jamaica fully supports the IOM's Strategic Plan, 2024-2028, which, among other things, seeks to facilitate pathways for regular migration and is aligned to Jamaica's National Policy on International Migration and development, as well as touch on key priorities of our government, such as addressing trafficking in persons and border security.

As a host, transit and destination country for migrants, Jamaica supports the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and a people-centered, child-sensitive and gender-responsive approach to migration, with a focus on protecting the rights and well-being of migrants. Jamaica has also adopted the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, which aims to strengthen frameworks for international protection and cooperation and is also working alongside other countries in the Caribbean to develop a Regional Migration Policy, with assistance from the IOM.

Jamaica, therefore, welcomes the focus of this session of the Council on *Regular Migration Pathways*, given that our National Migration Policy seeks to ensure, among other things, that international migration is adequately measured, monitored and influenced to serve the development needs of Jamaica as outlined in the country's National Development Plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica.

In this connection, I wish to highlight the recent support provided by the IOM to launch the Jamaica Diaspora Engagement Model (JAMDEM), which will facilitate virtual interaction with our Diasporans on trade and investment opportunities in Jamaica, in support of our national economic growth and development objectives.

Under the Joint Global IOM/UNDP Programme on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies, Jamaica has also benefited from the establishment of a **migration database**, the **completion of an extended**

**migration profile** and the **development of a plan of action for the reintegration of forced returnees**. These tools have bolstered Jamaica's commitment to addressing the nexus between migration and development and utilizing evidence-based approaches to policy-making and planning.

Excellencies,

For Jamaica, as a SIDS, situated in the second most disaster prone region in the world, the nexus between migration and climate impact is undeniable, and thus the issue of climate change and human mobility is of great importance to us. Jamaica, therefore, commends the IOM for its continued work in this area, including at the recently concluded COP29, and is grateful to the IOM for its support to the country's recovery efforts in the recent devastating aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, as well as in advancing solutions to mitigate the impact of future storms.

In closing, Chair, Jamaica recognises the important role of constructive dialogue and international cooperation in forging regular pathways for migration, especially amidst the rise in international conflicts, public health emergencies, food insecurity and the impact of climate change. These realities make the urgent case for greater attention to be placed on the promotion of safe, orderly and regular migration, especially for the most vulnerable. We look forward to the continued support of the IOM, as we work in concert to achieve regular pathways for migration and the protection of migrants on the go, keeping in focus the benefits of migration on the development of our societies and its role in accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda.

I Thank you Chair.