

**Statement by  
Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations Office  
and Other International Organisations in Geneva  
at the  
General Debate of the 115<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the  
International Organization for Migration  
27 November 2024**

Thank you, Chair.

My delegation extends congratulations on your election as Chair of this session, and thanks the members of the Bureau for their assiduous efforts in steering the work of the Council. We also thank the Director General for her energetic and focused stewardship of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and for her comprehensive report on the work undertaken by the IOM across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus during the past year. Both the report and statement by the Director General highlight the ways in which the IOM has sought to remain agile and adaptable while confronting myriad challenges.

Undoubtedly, this Session of the Council is taking place at a critical juncture in the international landscape – one where complex and intersecting global crises, primarily occasioned by conflicts and climate change, continue to threaten the lives and livelihoods of millions of people across the world.

For Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as Trinidad and Tobago, the impact of the climate crisis and extreme weather events on our populations and their mobility remains palpable. We, therefore, welcome the IOM's increasing focus on building climate resilience, fostering self-reliance and developing sustainable and durable solutions for vulnerable populations and host communities. The IOM's participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on SIDS, held in Antigua and Barbuda last May, also points to efforts to recognise the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS.

As a country of origin, transit and destination within the Americas region, Trinidad and Tobago continues its efforts, within available resources, to address the unique set of challenges and dynamics resulting from migratory flows. We recognise the importance of bilateral and multilateral partnerships in these efforts, including with UN agencies and international organisations such as the IOM. As such, Trinidad and Tobago was pleased to host a pivotal

Time allotted: 3 minutes

workshop entitled “Towards a Regional Approach to a Migration Policy in the Caribbean—Realizing A Shared Vision” in July 2024, which was organised by the CARICOM Secretariat and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), with technical support from the IOM.

Trinidad and Tobago also recently collaborated with the IOM in the elaboration of a Draft National Diaspora Policy. This comprehensive policy, guided in part by the IOM’s Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development, will seek to provide the necessary framework within which the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora can be constructively engaged across a range of thematic areas, and in pursuit of Trinidad and Tobago’s national development strategy, Vision 2030.

In closing, as converging global crises continue to disproportionately affect millions of civilians around the world, in particular women and girls, the opportunity must be seized to address, frontally, the challenges to global peace and security. Trinidad and Tobago therefore reiterates its commitment as a partner in these efforts.

I thank you.