

Statement by Jamaica
101st Session of the IOM Council – 27-30 November 2012, Geneva

Thank you Chair,

We congratulate you on your election as chair of these proceedings and we thank Ambassador Strohal for his leadership over the past year.

My delegation wishes to thank DG Swing for his report which provides a good basis for our consideration of the state of play in the area of migration and the important role that the IOM continues to play. On reading the report, it becomes clear that the current unprecedented levels of human mobility will continue to present significant challenges to the IOM in terms of the level and extent of its response and how it will be able to serve its growing membership. To this end, the IOM Directorate has made laudable strides in institutional reform and consolidation; enhancing its global functions and responsibilities; and seeking greater international coherence on migration issues.

A Structure Review Process has been successfully implemented. The programme has served to rationalize the IOM Secretariat and its field structures around the world and to strengthen the relationship between the 2. Importantly, these reforms were undertaken at no additional cost to member states. Discussions have also been taking place over the last 2 years on budget reform in the Working Group on Budget Reform on the financing of the IOM's budget in light of the expansion of the IOM and the increasing demands being placed on it for assistance. The Working Group has had some successful outcomes in its work as reflected in the relevant resolutions adopted so far; however, there are a number of key outstanding issues that will have to be addressed.

The Working Group is one of the many ways that member states have become more involved in and gained greater ownership of the work of the Organization. There has been greater interaction between member states and the Administration either through informal briefing sessions or formally through the different governing bodies. Such increased levels of engagement have led to greater transparency in the Organization's operations and a better understanding and appreciation by member states of the work of the IOM.

It will be important for the IOM to create new partnerships and to strengthen existing ones with key UN and non-UN bodies to ensure that it maintains its leadership role in the global debate on international migration issues and as a means of providing expanded services to its members. The IOM currently collaborates with a number of national, regional and international bodies, such as the Global Migration Group and the GFMD, and is seeking to develop and expand its relationship with others. We commend this.

Jamaica, along with some of its CARICOM partners, has benefited from a number of programmes sponsored by the IOM with its international partners. Jamaica has embraced the management of international migration as an important element of its development strategy and is taking steps to develop policies aimed at improving the government's capacity to monitor and manage international migration in line with the country's socio-economic development priorities.

With the valuable assistance of the IOM, UNDP, ILO, UNFPA, and UNICEF, Jamaica embarked on a 3-pronged project which entails 1) the development of a National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development; 2) mainstreaming migration into national development

strategies and 3) the development of a migration profile. The project will encompass a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between migration and development and will serve to promote a coherent and proactive policy approach to international migration to enhance the government's knowledge about migration and its relationship with development and to improve the use of migration information for national strategic policy planning and development. Subsequent to this analysis, the project will inform areas, including human capital development and mobility, migrant protection, remittance transfers as well as issues relating to the role of the diaspora in development. Jamaica officially launched on 4 September the publication entitled '*Migration in Jamaica: A Country Profile 2012*' becoming the first English-speaking country in the Caribbean to launch a migration profile. We wish to thank the European Union for providing funding for the development of the migration profile and to thank the IOM Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean for participating in the launch. Jamaica is also developing a draft Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration which, together with the work on the migration profile, will provide the basis for our active participation in the upcoming UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

On Tuesday member states adopted the draft resolution on the UNGA High Level Dialogue. As migration and development is one of its 4 broad service pillars, the IOM should be actively engaged in preparations for the conference and at the conference itself. Jamaica also supports the convening of the Diaspora Ministerial Conference to be held next year, the outcomes of which will feed into the HLD.

Chair,

The visit to Kingston by DDG Thompson in January 2011 was a clear indication of the IOM's desire to expand its relationship with Jamaica and the Caribbean. At this point we welcome the 3 new members of the IOM, particularly St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The growing Caribbean presence should provide the framework for closer collaboration between the IOM and the Caribbean sub-region.

In closing, Chair, Jamaica reiterates its support of the work of the IOM and we look forward to expanding our relationship with the Organization.

Thank you Chair

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