



Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Statement by:

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Secretary-General,

Madam President,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Grenada welcomes this important and timely Conference, convened under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly, to Adopt the first-ever Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in all its dimensions.

This full room and large presence of world leaders indicates that this is a topic of utmost significance. The importance of this historic Conference cannot be overstated. Grenada believes that the convening of this Conference will provide the international community with useful context and an unparalleled opportunity to

adopt a perspective on that which is relevant, which is rooted in reality, which has a degree of linkage to what is happening in the real world and to truly embrace and advance a global and humane approach to migration, while at the same time contributing to sustainable development.

Mr. Secretary-General,

The text of the Global Compact is deeply rooted in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and other core international human rights treaties. Grenada recommits, unwaveringly, to the principles of the United Nations, as embodied in the Charter, and here today proudly commits to the Global Compact for Migration.

Our commitment, in national and international life to the norms of peace, equality, justice and to human rights and multilateralism, is clear. In this regard, on 29 June 2018, Grenada officially joined the

International Organization for Migration (IOM). This exemplifies Grenada's steadfast support to the promotion of humanity and the reaffirmation of its pledge in the 2030 Agenda to leave no-one behind. Grenada recognizes the positive contributions of migrants. Therefore, we align ourselves with the commitment to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights.

Mr. Secretary-General,

Our Conference is occurring in a global context characterized by changing political ideologies, social revolution, and an increasing anxiety about economic, social and political inequality and marginalization. In that vein, pursuing policies and strategies for confronting challenges presented by certain human activity with corresponding extraordinary solutions, as well as for recognizing and enhancing benefits of that same activity, must be the most imperative means towards securing economic wellbeing and sustainable societies.

Migration is not a new phenomenon. Migration is not a foreign term to our vocabulary. The process of migration is well documented and has been part of human society throughout history and it will always continue. Migration undeniably is sometimes unpredictable. Just next door in the neighbouring sister CARICOM States there exists a focal point of influx of migration issues. And while some may face large-scale migration of people into their countries more than others, as a small nation we cannot disregard the prospect that we too can get swept by the 'migration wave'. Grenada, and no doubt, other sister States, have not spared any opportunity in the international arena to discuss this issue, both its challenges and contributions.

Mr. Secretary-General,

The Caribbean islands are especially vulnerable to extreme weather events and global climate change – events and processes that can cause displacement and set in motion the migration process. We are pleased to note that the Compact recognizes that

natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation, may compel people to leave their countries of origin. This is the context that must allow us to pursue with vigor and be champions for a global agreement on long term commitments that is consistent with science, that is guided by ethics and that carries a sense of urgency. It must guarantee the survival and protection of the most vulnerable and allows conditions for real expansion toward sustainable development.

The adoption of the Global Compact is a positive and correct response to the international situation which demands the closest co-operation among States, since most of today's problems and issues recognize no borders, and in fact transcend national frontiers.

Naturally, **Mr. Secretary-General**, we remain hopeful that the international community will garner a stronger resolve to fulfill commitments made in the Compact, making migration work for all.

I Thank you.