



## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE HONOURABLE PRIYA MANICKCHAND  
MINISTER OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**

**ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
NEW YORK**

**14-15 SEPTEMBER, 2006**

**Please Check Against Delivery**

Madame President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the countries of the Rio Group.

With its multidimensional aspects, migration encompasses issues well beyond the purview of development policy. In this context, our meeting here specifically to discuss the varied facets of international migration gives substance to the recognition of both its linkage to and impact on development and the need for its full consideration by the international community.

The Rio Group is delighted therefore with the convening after more than a decade in planning of this first ever high-level UN event entirely devoted to migration development. We thank the Secretary General and other agencies and actors for their contributions to the preparatory process.

The realities of globalization have intensified the linkages and impacts of international migration making the possible benefits and challenges it proffers of greater significance and immediacy. All countries to a lesser or greater extent are impacted by the phenomenon whether as countries of origin, transit or destination. Many benefits have accrued from the increased mobility of our people, with many of our citizens enhancing their lives and livelihoods. On the other hand, our countries have also not been exempt from the adverse effects which strike at the heart of efforts to achieve sustainable development and, more critically, the MDGs.

For the Rio Group, the balance sheet is therefore mixed and issues relating to international migration hold especial significance for Latin American and Caribbean society. Without doubt, the profound impact of international migration on development will continually engender debate. However, in pursuit of sustainable development, its effects cannot be ignored.

We believe that our own consistent endeavours to address the impact of international migration on our development are best complemented by greater international collaboration to address the multi-dimensional, multilayered and multi-sectoral nature of migration. In this regard, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to outline some of the priorities. First, the often tenuous legal, social, economic and political status of migrants places them at particular risk of infringements of their human rights. This is especially the case in relation to women and young people. We

support the strengthening of arrangements of both a multilateral and bilateral nature to assure the protection of the rights of all migrants on a systematic basis.

A second priority aspect relates to the importance of helping countries to cope with the demands of migration in the context of development. Many countries are severely constrained in their capacity to develop adequate and effective migration systems which require a high degree of coordination of different types.

The third priority arises from the necessity for a more structured global discourse on international migration and development. The global nature of the problems, challenges and opportunities presented by international migration transcend isolated national responses. There is need for a global perspective to enhance efficacious action thus the multilateral framework for action must be strengthened. The Group has noted the Secretary General's proposal of a global consultative forum on international migration. We believe such a forum indeed constitutes a useful interim arrangement to promote greater coherence in the absence of agreement on more permanent mechanisms to enable sustained attention to and holistic treatment of migration by the General Assembly.

Mme. President,

The Rio Group is committed to working to surmount the significant hurdles we face in order to optimize the benefits international migration for development. We commend to the High-Level Dialogue the processes we have developed and look forward to sharing further insights on our own national experiences in the round-table sessions in order to contribute to an elaboration of best practices.

We trust that partners will find virtue, as we do, in giving unequivocal support for further follow-up measures and mechanisms at the global level to ensure that the rich gains of our consultations are not lost and that we all as individual states, as groups and as an international community are better placed to effect the governance of international migration to benefit development.

I thank you.