



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

OPENING STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

***INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE AND ITS PREPARATORY PROCESS TO
ADOPT A GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION***

20TH FEBRUARY 2018

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

Thank you, Mr. Co-facilitator,

At the outset, my delegation extends its gratitude to you and your colleague from Mexico, as well as your hard-working teams, for the efforts to craft the zero draft on safe, orderly and regular migration. We recognise and appreciate that the draft seeks to reflect the comprehensive views expressed by States and other stakeholders in the consultation and stocktaking phases of the process.

We believe this is a good platform from which to launch negotiations and are committed to remaining engaged in this process in pursuit of the adoption of a balanced outcome in Morocco in December 2018.

Global migration should be predicated on the promotion and respect for human rights and, as such, should be people centred, child-sensitive, and gender-responsive. It should not be manipulated and exploited to the detriment of both migrants and our societies.

In this regard, Jamaica, as a co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Children and the SDGs, join fellow Co-Chairs from Bulgaria and Luxembourg in commending the co-facilitators for the child-specific elements contained in the draft text. We underline the need to not only retain but strengthen these elements, which are intended to address specific child protection risks through the provision of integrated, inclusive and well-resourced child care and protection services to one of the most vulnerable groups in our societies. We therefore support the language in the zero draft that calls on Member States to address child-specific vulnerabilities by upholding the principle of the best interests of the child.

In similar vein, we hope to see more specific references to other vulnerable groups, including disabled and elderly migrants, to ensure that we leave no one behind.

Jamaica welcomes the sense of common purpose reflected in the text, founded on the concepts of common understanding, shared responsibilities and unified purpose. At the same time, we wish to underscore the realities that constrain small island developing states, many of which face fiscal challenges and all impacted by climate change and

vulnerable to natural disasters. Against this backdrop, we desire to take full advantage of the contributions of migration, while creating effective policy frameworks and programmes to address its associated ills.

For this reason, my delegation was pleased to see international cooperation as a guiding principle for the text. We emphasise the need to promote cooperation at all levels, including on the means of implementation, so as to establish a coordinated global front to address the multifaceted and cross-cutting nature of migration. We hope to take this approach further by including an objective related to international cooperation for stronger partnerships based on tolerance, understanding and community values and outreach.

In this spirit, we look forward to listening to the positions of Member States on their priorities, with a view to engaging constructively on those points on which there is great distance.

There is a long road ahead to July. However, if we all migrate towards our common destination, we will achieve the best outcome for all our constituents at every level by paving the way for a safe, orderly and regular migration for all.

Thank you.