



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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on Addressing Capacity Building Gaps, Mobilizing Resources and  
Developments in Technologies, Processes and Policies

High-Level Debate on International Migration and Development

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*Please Check Against Delivery*

Mister Chair,

At the outset, I would like to commend the General Assembly for convening this High-Level Debate on this very critical issue, which recognizes the linkages between the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and what has been a century's old phenomenon – the movement of people.

Jamaica is acutely aware of the need to take advantage of the contributions made to our society by migration, which are enhanced through effective policy frameworks. It is essential that countries bridge existing gaps between the needs of refugees and migrants, and the services that are available to them. As a highly-indebted Small Island Developing State, we are conscious of how challenging it can be to cater to the needs of migrants within the context of limited fiscal space and increased climate vulnerabilities.

We believe that with the right policies in place, migration can be a positive and empowering experience. In 2017, Jamaica developed a National Policy on International Migration and Development, which seeks to provide a framework for the mainstreaming of migration into our national development strategies. The Policy serves to improve the mechanisms for measuring and regulating migration to and from Jamaica, with a focus on reducing risk factors for migrants.

Jamaica presented its first Voluntary National Review in 2018 where we reported on progress made in the following areas relevant to the SDGs:

- I. Upholding labour rights for all workers, including migrants and women. We have ratified a total of 26 ILO conventions (SDG target 8.8)
- II. Since 2011 we have established a National Working Group on International Migration and Development, comprised of over 30 entities (SDG target 10.7)
- III. We have also developed a Plan of Action in support of the reintegration and rehabilitation of forced returnees - involuntary returned migrants many of whom are at risk of being left behind (SDG target 10.7).

Mister Chair,

We are cognizant of the need to improve our data collection systems to increase the capacity to reliably disaggregate and collect data. It is through timely and accessible data and evidence, disaggregated by age and gender, that we will be able to give a voice to the invisible, and improve our understanding of migration, and the effects of displacement of persons, including children and families on societies. As such, I am particularly proud of the 200-page Statistical Annex to our VNR that we produced, which provides a goal by goal, target-by-target baseline used to measure SDG implementation in Jamaica.

In conclusion Mister Chair, Jamaica fully supports the aims of the Global Compact and calls on Member States to make funding available through the start-up fund, as envisioned in paragraph 43 of the Global Compact for Migration.

Thank you.