

Meeting 461  
Date 2.12.04  
Time \_\_\_\_\_

88<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council, 30 November -1 December 2004  
Statement by Jamaica

Mr Chairman,

There is also a growing awareness of the socio-economic impact of migration and the increased recognition that migration should be better managed through international cooperation and policy responses in order to strengthen the contribution that migration can make to development. It is recognised that migrants are helping to maintain important social and economic linkages between the developed and developing worlds and that this can contribute to poverty alleviation. The role that remittances play in this regard is of primary importance. Jamaica strongly supports IOM's role in ensuring orderly and humane management of migration, and in continuing to contribute to efforts to ensure that migration contributes to long-term growth and development.

The International Organisation for Migration is an important partner for Jamaica in our efforts to address the various migration challenges with which we are confronted. It will be recalled that during the period 1993- 1997, the European Union, in collaboration with the IOM, instituted a programme in Jamaica to encourage the return of skilled Jamaican nationals. Under this programme, the Mission assisted in the return and reintegration of approximately 63 skilled Jamaicans; some of whom continue to hold prominent positions in the public sector.

In 2001 Jamaica hosted a highly successful International Migration Policy Seminar for the Caribbean subregion, in collaboration with IOM. As a consequence of a technical assistance assessment mission to Jamaica in June 2002, a programme of activities was proposed under the Organisation's Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme. Through this Capacity Building Programme, Jamaica is cooperating with IOM to enhance the migration management systems in the country through the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the Government in regard to policy development, and the putting in place of legislation and regulations to address migration concerns.

Jamaica recognises the value of the work that IOM is carrying out including within its six pillars or service areas. As a result, we have been actively considering the possibility of becoming a full member of the Organisation in order to participate more effectively in its intergovernmental apparatus, and to strengthen the collaborative efforts between Jamaica and the IOM in order to facilitate continued implementation and execution of ongoing activities. We are

pleased to announce that on Monday, 29 November 2004, the Jamaican Cabinet considered and approved the recommendation for Jamaica to become a full member of IOM. We express the hope that at the next Council Meeting Jamaica's application for membership will be considered and approved by member states.

Thank you Mr Chairman.