

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE
GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION**

**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE WINSTON FELIX - MINISTER OF
CITIZENSHIP- HEAD OF GUYANA DELEGATION**

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary- General,

Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration,

Excellencies,

On behalf of His Excellency President David Granger, the delegation of Guyana wishes to thank the Government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco for their warmth and hospitality and for hosting this historic conference. We thank the co-facilitators for their stewardship of this process and congratulate the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary General's Special Representative for their leadership in bringing us to this stage. Guyana has been wholly committed to this process, participating in every stage and making contributions towards the drafting of the Compact, thereby ensuring the interests of our people at home and abroad are effectively represented.

The movement of people is a central part of the human story. People have always been on the move and will continue to be as our world becomes ever more connected and the barriers that separate us continue to fall. The past decade has seen people moving more than ever before, driven by war, poverty, climate change and evolving labour markets,

and there is hardly a nation that has not experienced migration from the perspective as countries of origin, transit, destination and return. These circumstances necessitated our effort over the past two years and as we have adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, we must all recognize that our journey continues and we must move forward in this spirit of cooperation as we work toward the implementation of the Compact.

Guyana with a Diaspora at least as large as its internal population, is conscious of the unique role migrants can play in the transformation of societies, we are conscious of the considerable opportunities and contributions of migrants to development and of the importance of incorporating migrant communities in the policy formation process as we work toward implementation of the Global Compact.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration presents a non-legally binding, cooperative framework of actionable commitments agreed upon by Member States. It rests on several core international human rights treaties, and those purposes and principles espoused in the Charter of the United Nations. The Compact is based on a set of guiding principles which makes it people centered; facilitates international cooperation; reaffirms national sovereignty; and respects the rule of law and due process. The Compact is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; is guided by international human rights law; is gender responsive; child sensitive and promotes a

whole-of- society approach. These are the fundamental tenets on which Guyana's firm support of the Compact is based.

Guyana firmly believes that this Compact will also play a crucial role in the furtherance of our commitment to the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The targets set out in both, go hand in hand, and our ability to tackle issues like poverty, health and education will simultaneously uplift developing states while addressing those issues that often drive the movement of people across borders.

Guyana remains extremely supportive of regular migration and recognizes the challenges faced by those that are often forced to migrate using irregular pathways. Our nation has been committed to providing humanitarian assistance to migrants who, due to difficult circumstances in countries of origin, have sought refuge within our borders.

International cooperation in migration management is inescapable. Even as individual governments make their own migration laws and policies, if we remain as committed to this process as we are today, learning from each other's successes and failures, this shared understanding of the migratory process that has been built can only be made stronger.

For developing nations, the importance of partnerships cannot be overstated. Our ability to work with those states that host large communities of the Guyanese Diaspora and sharing their expertise and knowledge is key to our efforts to address many of the challenges that we face. This is especially true with regard to remittances, since reducing costs in this area can play a very important role for development.

Guyana, therefore, wishes to join the chorus for our continued collective efforts toward making migration work for all. We must keep in mind that behind every person that leaves his homeland, seeking a new one, is a story that we all can play a critical role in transforming.

The Global Compact on Migration not only reflects the fact that migration is a perennial and inescapable reality, but also is now finally and firmly placed at its rightful place in the Global Affairs Agenda.

I Thank You.