



STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY E. COURTENAY RATTRAY
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

AT THE

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO ADOPT THE
GLOBAL COMPACT
FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION**

**MARRAKECH, MOROCCO
10TH - 11TH DECEMBER 2018**

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**Thank you Mr/Madam Chair,
Heads of State and Government,
Secretary General of the Conference, Madam Louise Arbour,
Excellencies,
Delegates,**

It is a pleasure for the Government of Jamaica to join with the international community to adopt the first, inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration. The “Road to Marrakech” has been paved with **consultations** among all relevant stakeholders, **conversations** at all levels, and a **collective commitment** to arrive at a **consensus** document. Through these efforts, on 13 July 2018, we reached agreement on a sound framework for action to address safe, orderly and regular migration for the estimated 258 million migrants worldwide.

The Government and people of Jamaica have always been mindful of the important role played by migration in shaping our identity, which is embodied in our national motto “*Out of Many, One People*”. From the earliest years of our history, this small island developing state has been a place of destination, origin and return for many from around the world. It is within this historical context that we engaged actively throughout the 18-month intergovernmental process in all its phases. Moreover, we have begun taking deliberate steps to align the proposed actions in the Global Compact with our National Policy on International Migration and Development, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as with Vision 2030 Jamaica: our national development plan.

On 6th November 2018, Jamaica hosted a national consultative workshop in Kingston with key partners to identify national priorities and to chart the effective implementation of the Global Compact. A clear outcome of that consultation was the invaluable contribution to making migration work for all, which derives from partnerships between public sector entities, the private sector, and international and regional organisations and agencies.

Mr Chair,

The Global Compact is founded on a vision wherein, through international cooperation and unity, we can harness the opportunities that migration brings while strategically confronting its challenges. The ten (10) cross-cutting and interdependent Guiding Principles of the Global Compact serve as a lodestar for the important task of implementation of the 23 Objectives contained in the text.

While attainment of each objective is of the utmost importance, every Member State and stakeholder in this partnership will craft the most appropriate response that prioritises the objectives and proposed actions within their national contexts. Jamaica is cognisant of the delicate balance required to ensure that our migration policies reflect a people-centred and human rights based approach, while simultaneously safeguarding its national security interests. Such a balance must be struck, given our circumstance as a small island developing state situated along one of the more heavily traversed international transportation routes, confronted by challenges in ensuring the security of our porous borders. We also must take account of the interests of approximately 1.3 million Jamaican born

nationals, representing almost 50% of our resident population, who reside outside our country.

Effective implementation of the Global Compact should be grounded on evidence based policies driven by accurate and reliable data and analysis and solid partnerships. It is in recognition of this important consideration that we welcome the objective on improving and investing in the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable, and comparable disaggregated data as the starting point for our commitments. This empirical approach can assist governments of origin and destination countries to more effectively address the various drivers and structural factors that compel people to migrate. An evidenced based approach will also equip governments to meet the challenges faced by migrants when they arrive at their destination. We therefore welcome the theme of strengthened international cooperation, global partnerships and collaboration that is woven throughout the Global Compact.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, the Government of Jamaica reaffirms its commitment to a comprehensive approach to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. My delegation looks forward to further sharing its national experience in Dialogue 2 on Partnerships and Innovative Initiatives for the Way Forward. We also anticipate engaging with other delegations and partners in activating the Global Compact for migrants, communities, and countries.

Thank you.