

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA  
(FOR INTERPRETATION ONLY)

DELIVERED BY BRIAN CRANT, DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL

AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to address this assembly today, particularly on a topic as important as international migration and development. Twelve years after the International Conference on Population and Development, the commitments made on migration remain relevant. But our work is not done. States need to continue working on cultivating an environment that is respectful of human rights and conducive to sustainable human development. While Canada is an obvious supporter of managed migration, we need to ensure that remaining in one's country is a viable option for all people.

At present, the magnitude — the sheer number of people living outside their countries of

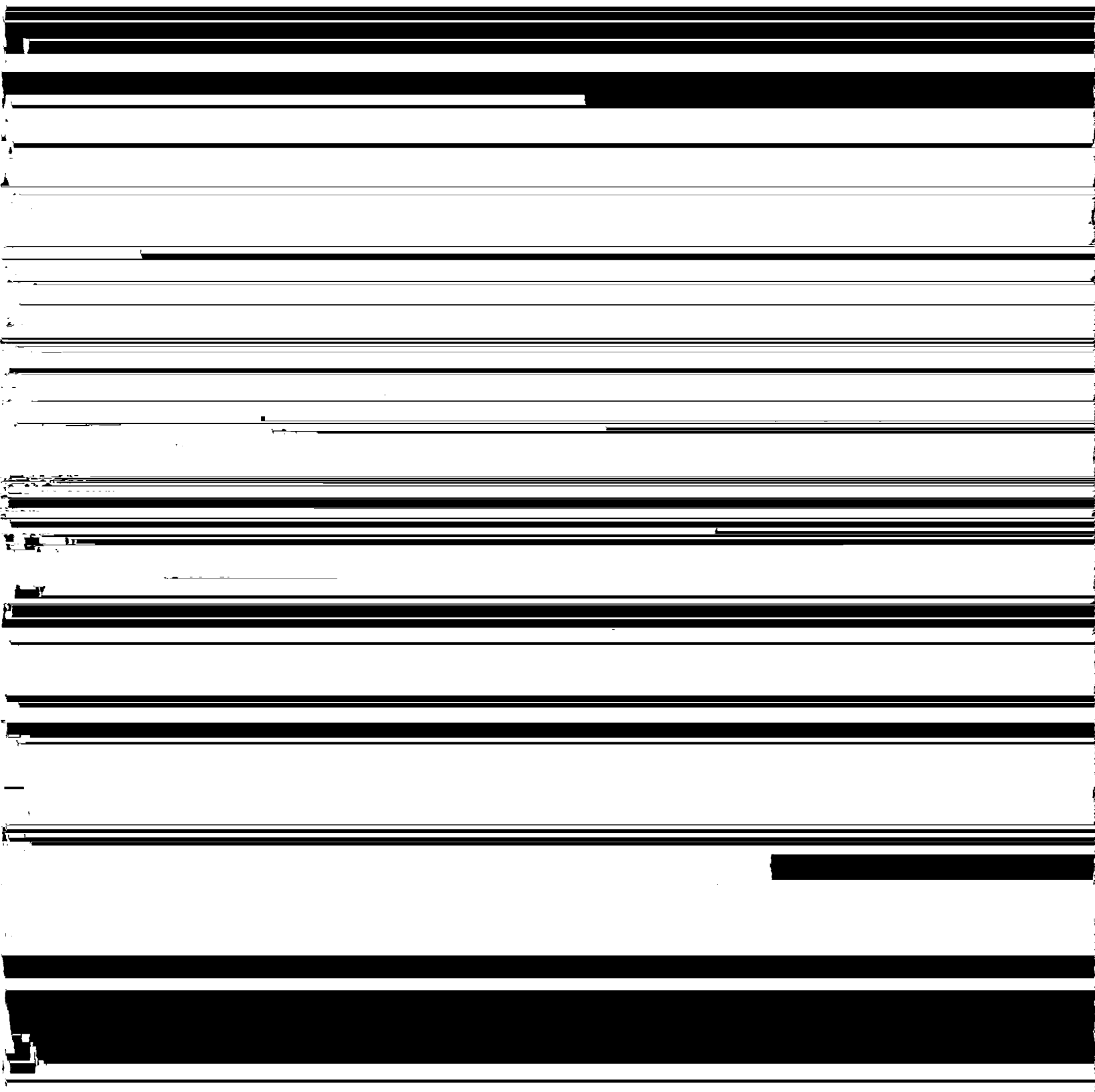
and the scale of migration mean that migration will continue to be discussed and

blocks, which apply to all members of society not just to migrants, need to be put into place to build an environment of tolerance. And results need to be demonstrated by politicians, by community leaders, by leaders of industry and through various media.

we will receive close to 250,000 new immigrants. But Canada is not unique. The Canadian immigration program is the result of deliberate policy choices and that it is continually evolving and changing. We believe that, with enough political will and direction and planning, all countries can manage migration to suit their own particular needs and realities.

Less well known perhaps is the fact that Canada is also a country of emigration, a “sending” country to use old terminology. Every year thousands of Canadians leave Canada to live and work in other countries. In fact, a recent study by the Asia-Pacific Foundation estimated

about the welfare of our citizens abroad. It also means that we bring an equal concern about the welfare of other people in our countries. It means that we strive continually to put in place and maintain legal frameworks for managing migration that are fair, equitable and transparent — in so that the migrant understands the “rules” And it means that the decisions of our officials who



substantial scope of effort still required.

Canada strongly supports the continued relevance of the ICPD as a comprehensive, balanced and constructive roadmap for international cooperation on international migration. Indeed, it contained the seeds for subsequent work on two VERY important migrant protection protocols that supplement the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children and the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Canada has been an active participant in the

negotiations of these Protocols and remains engaged in regional and global migration discussions that focus on reducing any negative effects of migration and maximizing the benefits, both to states and migrants, of this natural phenomenon.

We must also acknowledge that migration, in certain circumstances, places strains on countries. The interaction between migration and development is very complex. And frankly, the continued use of the term "brain drain" to describe this complex phenomenon is not very helpful. It is simplistic, misleading and incomplete as a description. The strain that is placed on areas within labour markets is a very real concern. But the interests of the state have to be