

Madam Chairperson,
Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States to take the floor at this important High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. This Meeting is at an opportune time, since the global debate on migration is high on the agenda of most countries and regions.

The ACP Group of States is the largest organised entity for developing countries with a membership of 79 covering the African continent, Caribbean and Pacific regions, and with an estimated population of over 700 million. It

global debate on migration and development is so important - to look at possible solutions in a new, innovative and, overall, **positive** way.

Madam Chairperson,

The ACP Group is of the view that the UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development should not be an end in itself, but rather an important juncture of a continuing process. The continuing debate on migration and development should focus on:

- Improved integration of migration issues into development policy and planning;
- Capacity building to develop and manage migration policies;
- Ensuring an inclusive approach to migration, including the involvement of Non-State Actors (NGOs, business, trade unions and civil society);
- Greater utilization of the development potential of diasporas;
- Promotion of global dialogue on migration issues, including regional consultations and North-South exchanges; and
- Greater commitment to protect the basic human rights of migrants, refugees and displaced persons.

The ACP Group believes that the UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development has steered an important process that involves Governments, Institutions, UN Agencies, and international, regional and local NGO's, and attracts international attention to migration and development. A global and multi-disciplinary approach to migration and development issues is the only way forward to ensure that the positive and developmental elements stemming from migration can be further enhanced. Successful participation in the Global Migration Forum requires an on-going exchange of information and best practices among countries of origin, transit and destination, taking into account the ever-changing nature of human migration.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States is committed to addressing the critical issues of migration in relation to sustainable development, and by implication addressing the MDGs.

All endeavours to develop migration policies and programmes should be focussed on the well-being of our peoples. Let us join hands, and together formulate concrete policies and programmes on migration and mobility that are people-focussed and indeed will complement efforts to effectively address poverty and the challenges of sustainable development.

The ACP