

**Statement to be delivered at the General Debate of the first International Migration  
Review Forum  
19-20 May 2022  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**Mr. President,**

Guyana extends its appreciation to you for convening this first International Migration Review Forum and was pleased to participate and contribute to the fruitful discussions that were held during the roundtables. It is through Fora of this nature that members of the international community can collectively assess the progress made and derive future initiatives that need to be undertaken to fully address migration-related issues. This Forum also allows for other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, to present on the key recommendations from the Informal Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing that will serve as a guide for Members for the next four years in their GCM implementation plans.

Guyana, as one of many UN Member States that have adopted the Global Compact for Migration, is currently undertaking several initiatives on migration matters, including collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), aimed at strengthening Guyana's approach to migration governance. These initiatives are geared towards the implementation of the GCM objectives and are supplementary to Guyana's dedication towards addressing migration issues and our engagement at the regional and international levels, including at the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the International Dialogue on Migration, the South American Conference on Migration and the Caribbean Migration Consultations.

At the national level, His Excellency President Mohamed Irfaan Ali in 2021 launched the expanded Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, which sets out a vision to transform Guyana's economy to better deliver socio-economic benefits to Guyanese by following a low carbon path, while mainstreaming climate resilience. These benefits are expected to be transcended to communities across the country, including the hinterland areas, and can be seen as paving the way for decreased internal and external migration by Guyanese and for increased remigration of Guyanese living overseas. To activate these benefits, focus will be placed on several priorities including in the areas of health, education, low carbon transportation infrastructure, digital

infrastructure, access to finance, and social capital. It should be noted that Guyana's LCDS like the GCM is linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In addressing migration at the regional level, Guyana in 2020 resuscitated its Multi-Agency Committee to Address the Influx of Migrants from Venezuela to develop and sustain a comprehensive and coordinated response by the Government and its international partners to the needs of the migrants entering Guyana from Venezuela. Some objectives of the Committee include facilitating the provision of basic humanitarian assistance to the migrants; providing access to documentation, registration and regularization services; ensuring timely data is available to the Government related to monitoring and analysis of the movements of migrants into and within Guyana; providing special assistance as far as practicable to women and children; facilitating access to the formal labour market and livelihood opportunities; and executing information awareness programmes nationally to reduce local tensions and to prevent xenophobia.

**Mr. President,**

I would now like to focus my attention to the current international situation. We cannot address international migration issues without highlighting the conflict in Ukraine and the fact that it has added to the woes of this global issue. According to UNHCR, an estimated 5.3 million refugees fled Ukraine as of April 2022 since the conflict began in February 2022. In a short space of time the world has witnessed the movement of millions of persons all searching for new and safe homes. While countries of the region have been providing support to the refugees, it also requires the efforts of other countries in the world to mitigate the situation, whether by helping their nationals stranded in Ukraine or providing some form of humanitarian aid to support the internally displaced persons in Ukraine. The ultimate solution, however, would be the ending of the current situation in Ukraine. The violation of the territorial sovereignty and integrity of another State should not be condoned. In this regard, Guyana has joined with 140 other countries in voting in favour of the resolution "Aggression against Ukraine" that was passed in the UN General Assembly on 2 March 2022. We would also like to reiterate our call for the immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to diplomacy in Ukraine.

In conclusion, **Mr. President**, Guyana wishes to reaffirm its commitment towards the achievement of the objectives of the GCM and hereby pledges its support for the adoption of the Progress Declaration.

I thank you.