

STATEMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE HIGH
LEVEL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
15 SEPTEMBER 2006

Madame President, demographic trends and economic developments determine the in and out flows of migrants intra-regionally and extra-regionally. Within the Region, the flows are also associated with

towards improving social conditions within their home countries. Further, younger professionals who have obtained job opportunities in the Region are returning and this adds a positive element to the migration balance sheet.

Madame President, CARICOM recognises the magnitude of migration to development and the subject occupied the attention of the Heads of Government of the Twenty-seventh Conference Heads of Government in July this year (3-6 July 2006, St Kitts and Nevis). The Conclusions of the Conference are particularly noteworthy for this august gathering. The Conference:

Agreed that special attention be paid to establishing policies in specific areas such as:

- › the development of migration policy;
- › the verification of strategies for the retention of skilled labour;
- › establishment of a reliable information system/database;
- › use of information to enhance National Capacity;
- › building social support systems to respond to the requirements of voluntary and involuntary return migrants;
- › relations with the diaspora

Also agreed on the need to adopt a multilateral approach to the issue of human trafficking and to support a Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) to create an impartial and transparent mechanism for evaluating the progress of countries with respect to human trafficking;

Supported the recommendation of the Community Council (the second highest decision-making body of the Community) for the establishment of a Technical Working Group to undertake a policy study and report to Heads of Government through the relevant Councils and the Community Council within one year. The terms of reference are presently under consideration.