



**Republic of Ecuador**  
**THIRD SOUTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE**  
**ON MIGRATION**

*Quito, Ecuador*  
*August 15 and 16, 2002*

**FINAL DECLARATION**

The Representatives of the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, gathered in the Third South American Conference on Migrations, held on August 15 and 16, 2002 in Quito, Republic of Ecuador, following up the process initiated in the South American Meeting on Migrations, Integration and Development, realized in Lima, Peru, in July 1999, continued by the First and Second South American Conferences on Migrations, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in May 2000 and in Santiago de Chile in April 2001, respectively; and upon the statements by their Delegates and the exchange of their points of view regarding the general migratory situation in South America in general, and the proposal of the Plan of Action on international Migration in South America, drawn up and discussed during the Technical Consultative Meeting held in Cartagena de Indias, Republic of Colombia, in December 2001, in compliance with commitment made in the Second South American Conference on Migrations, have adopted the following Final Declaration:

**Considering**

- \*.- The mandate issued by the Second Meeting of Presidents of South America, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, held on July 26 and 27, 2002, which provides that the Third South American Conference on Migrations, held in Quito, on August 15 and 16, 2002, should adopt a Plan of Action on International Migrations in South America;
- \*.- That the said mandate provided that this Plan of Action should consider and establish, among its main purposes, the formulation of coordinated guidelines for the protection of the fundamental rights of South American migrants worldwide, especially in matters of social security, regular work conditions and reciprocal consular support;
- \*.- The importance of establishing the bases for the adoption of coordinated regional policies to fight the illegal traffic of people and to provide for the harmonization of the laws of the South American countries in migratory matters;



\*.- That respect for and effectiveness of the human rights of migrants, particularly those referring to social, economic, political and cultural aspects, constitute an essential base for human development of the population of the South American countries;

\*.- That the South American Conference on Migrations has been consolidated as the Permanent Forum of Coordination, Consultation and Development of regional Migratory Policies for South America, with the primary objective of integrally treating the migratory issue;

\*.- That the regional migratory processes and the corresponding national policies require better and more efficient mechanisms of support and cooperation regarding the matter, mainly in the areas of strategic information on the migratory issue, training and instruction of public officials, regional cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, as well as the participation of the civil society;

\*.- That protection of national people inside and outside the South American countries constitutes a permanent concern Governments of the region and the religious institutions and Non-Government Organizations integrating the civil society in South America;

## **DECLARE**

**Firstly:** To adopt the Plan of Action on International Migrations in South America as the Working Program of the South American Conference on Migrations. The said Plan constitutes a part of this Declaration.

**Secondly:** To request the opinions of the region's Governments regarding the incorporation in the Plan of Action on International Migrations in South America of the proposal to consider the migratory variable in the national development and integration policies underway. To that effect, the Government of Ecuador, as the Conference's Pro Tempore Secretariat, will receive the Governments' considerations on this issue.

**Thirdly:** To take note of the calls of the Chancellor of Ecuador, Dr. Heinz Moeller, regarding the need for endeavoring the reforms the international regulations require, in order to establish a New International Migratory Order, structured according to the following fundamental aspects:

- 1) The co-responsibility in migration between countries of origin and destination;
- 2) The acknowledgement of the compensations the developing countries require for the damage deriving from this process, especially in regard of the loss of human resources;



- 3) The shared responsibility between countries of origin and destination in the fight against the illegal traffic of people;
- 4) The correlation existing between poverty and migratory movements, which leads to the need for linking the phenomenon of international migrations more closely to the processes of integral development of the countries;
- 5) The necessity of reflection on this link, as a new element that contributes to the establishment of a fairer and more equal international order;
- 6) The international responsibility regarding the phenomenon of refugees, whereby a country must absorb thousands of people fleeing while their lives are at risk. This forced migration and its consequences in the receiving country should be a part of all reflection on the migratory issue.

**Fourthly:** To watch over the respect for the rights of migrant workers and their families, in accordance with the internal laws of the countries and the international instruments on the matter.

**Fifthly:** To intensify regional coordination, for the purpose of promoting inter-regional cooperation with the European Union, in order to establish rules and procedures toward the regulation and putting in order of the migratory flows, taking into consideration the existing historical and cultural ties between the two regions.

**Sixthly:** To promote secure migration and strengthen the mechanisms for the fight against the illegal traffic of people. In this sense, cooperation between the countries of South America and the countries of origin, transit and destination must be furthered through the establishment of efficient procedures and commitments, particularly by binding in the Travel Agencies and international transportation companies, which should be required to comply with their responsibilities in regard to the obligation to duly inform their users on the migratory regulations of the receiving country, as well as in respect of the obligation to acknowledge full validity to unused or expired return tickets, in case of voluntary repatriations or repatriations ordered by the competent migratory authority of the receiving or transit country.

**Seventhly:** To urge the International Community regarding the need to preserve and promote the unlimited respect for the rights of people in whatever migratory condition in other countries, guaranteeing their fundamental human and juridical rights, in order to assure due process and avoid that people detained for infractions against migratory rules be treated in ways similar to those of common delinquents.

**Eighthly:** To emphasize the provisions established in the Vienna Convention of 1963 on Consular Relations, particularly those providing for the obligation of competent authorities of the State where a foreign citizen is detained, to immediately notify the nearest-by consular officer of the detainee's country of origin on that fact and to grant the necessary facilities, so



that that consular agent may visit the person detained and provide him/her the corresponding juridical and humanitarian assistance.

**Ninthly:** To request technical and financial cooperation of International and Regional Organizations in a coordinate way in order to:

- a) Formulate programs and projects, which contribute to the achievement of the general and specific objectives of the Plan of Action on International Migrations in South America.
- b) Maintain and strengthen the training in migratory matters.
- c) Promote the development of appropriate information mechanisms that help comply with the objectives guiding the activity of the South American Observatory on Migrations (OSUMI).

**Tenthly:** To request the International Organization for Migrations (IOM), as the Technical Secretariat of the South American Forum on Migrations, to organize the Second Technical Consultative Preparatory Meeting of the Fourth South American Conference on Migrations, relying to that purpose on the participation of all Governments of South America, in order to consider and analyze the projects and programs as they may be formulated with a view to implementing the objectives of the Plan of Action.

**Eleventhly:** To request the Governments of the countries of South America and others that can provide bilateral cooperation, as well as the International Organizations operating in the Region, to provide technical and financial cooperation for the design, formulation and implementation of the projects and programs on migratory matters, amongst them those as may be submitted during the Second Technical Consultative Preparatory Meeting of the Fourth South American Conference on Migrations.

**Twelvethly:** To request technical and financial cooperation from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the form of designing, formulating and implementing, directly or in coordination with other regional or international Funding Organizations, an integral study regarding the issue of remittances, including recommendations toward minimizing their cost and guaranteeing, in addition, the safe and timely delivery of the said remittances to the intended receivers. The bases of the said study are to be submitted, if possible, for consideration of the Second Technical Consultative Preparatory Meeting of the Fourth South American Conference on Migrations.

**Thirteenthly:** To accept the offer of the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay to host the Fourth South American Conference on Migrations, to take place in Montevideo, Uruguay in 2003, as well as the offer of the Republic of Paraguay to host the Second Technical Consultative Preparatory Meeting of the said Conference.

**Fourteenthly:** To acknowledge the importance of the contributions of the Governments and International Organizations participating as observers in the Third South American Conference on Migrations.



**Fifteenthly:** To acknowledge the participation of religious institutions and Non-Government Organizations of the civil society for presenting the documents "Quito Declaration on Migrations, Democracy, Development and Human Rights" and "Letter to the Governments of South America", submitted to the Delegations during the Conference's Plenary Meeting.

**Sixteenthly:** To thank the Government of the Republic of Ecuador for organizing and holding the Third South American Conference on Migrations and its hospitality toward the participating Delegations; the International Organization for Migrations (IOM) for its valuable contribution in the development of this event as the Conference's Technical Secretariat, and the participation of the IOM Director General, Mr. Brunson McKinley.

Quito, august 16, 2002