

SECOND SOUTH-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION

*Santiago, Chile
April 2-3, 2001*

FINAL DECLARATION

The representatives of the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, assembled at the Second South-American Conference on Migration held on April 2 and 3, 2001 in Santiago, Chile - following up the process initiated at the South-American Encounter on Migration, Integration and Development held in Lima in 1999 and the First South-American Conference on Migration held in Buenos Aires in 2000.

After hearing the statements by their representatives and the exchange of views on the free movement of migrants and the situation of South-American nationals outside the region,

Have adopted the following Final Declaration:

Considering:

- *.- The need to reconcile policies on international migration within the framework of regional integration processes;
- *.- The urgent need to combat, prevent and punish the illicit traffic in migrants and related offenses;
- *.- The possibility of strengthening the relationship and ties between South-American people residing outside the region and their respective countries of origin and communities.
- *.- The concern for reinforcing coordinated efforts to promote and protect migrants' human rights and guaranteeing a fair, non-discriminatory treatment to migrants in the field of administration of justice.
- *.- That the South-American Conference on Migration is a permanent forum for the coordination and development of regional policies mainly aimed at addressing migration issues in a comprehensive way.

The representatives have adopted the following

DECLARATION:

First: To reaffirm the will of their governments to ensure the protection of human rights of both migrants and their families, within the framework of applicable International Conventions and Agreements in force. In the light of the foregoing, to take the steps required for promoting and protecting such fundamental rights and endeavor to incorporate the organized civil society and specialized international agencies to these actions.

Second: To condemn the illicit traffic in migrants from, to, via and inside the Region, as well as the laundering of money coming from such activity.

In order to prevent, combat and punish the illicit traffic in migrants and ensure full respect for the human rights of both migrants and their families, they express their will to promote the adoption of legal measures to characterize traffic in migrants as a criminal offence, to establish mechanisms for cooperation and exchange of information between migration control authorities for the prevention, detection and combat of the illicit traffic in migrants and to raise public awareness on the negative impact of such activity on society as a whole.

Third: To promote joint actions and coordination of consular policies to improve the treatment to South-American migrants outside the region.

Fourth: To intensify and develop initiatives in each country to secure full integration and exercise of migrants' rights.

Fifth: To seek the support and cooperation of the International Organization for Migration to:

(a) Strengthen the operations of the “Centro de Información sobre Migraciones en América Latina” (Information Center on Latin-American Migration) [CIMAL] by establishing a permanent follow-up which generates strategic information for decision-making by governments on migration policies.

(b) Hold a Technical Consultation meeting with the participation of all the governments in the region with a view to drafting an action plan to be submitted to the Third Conference.

(c) Modernize and strengthen the migration institutional framework, adjust laws and provide officials with professional and vocational training, for the attainment of goals set in this Conference.

(d) Prepare and make available to the governments a comparative study of the handling of migration issues and visa regimes, with a view to perfecting and deepening integration among South-American countries on the matter. A working group proposed to be established by the Conference shall be responsible for analyzing the above study.

Sixth: To take and thank the offer of the delegation of the Republic of Ecuador to host the Third South-American Conference on Migration.

To thank the Government of the Republic of Chile for the organization of this South-American Conference and its hospitality to the participating Delegations; the International Organization for Migration, for its cooperation in materializing this event and for having acted as Technical Secretariat of the Conference, and the countries and organizations having participated as observers.

To thank the Secretary of State for Migration Issues of the Government of Spain for having taken part in this Conference.

Santiago, April 3, 2001