



Oriental Republic of Uruguay
FOURTH SOUTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE
ON MIGRATION

Montevideo, Uruguay
6 and 7 November 2003

FINAL DECLARATION

The representatives of the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela, gathered at the Fourth South American Conference on Migration which took place on November 6 and 7, 2003, in Montevideo, Oriental Republic of Uruguay; following up the process initiated at the South American Meeting on Migration, Integration and Development in Lima, Peru, in July 1999 and continued by the First, Second and Third South American Conferences on Migration, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in May 2000, Santiago de Chile in April 2001, and Quito, in August 2002, respectively; and having heard the exchange of statements and information about the situation of migration in South America conducted on the basis of the progress report of the Plan of Action approved at the city of Quito and prioritised at the Second Technical Consultative Meeting held in Asuncion in April 2003, adopt the following Final Declaration:

CONSIDERING:

- That the link between development processes and international migration promotes the generation of cooperation and collaboration spaces thanks to the economic, social and cultural contributions made by migrants and their families.
- That the human rights of migrants and their families constitute a legal obligation and an ethical basis for the human development of the population of South American countries.
- The major significance acquired by the strict compliance with the obligations deriving from the universal and regional system for the protection and promotion of human rights and its application to migrants and their families.
- The importance of incorporating human, social and cultural aspects into migration and consular administration, of assisting nationals from our countries who live abroad, and ensuring them a fair, equal, and humane treatment.



- That it is necessary to produce an analysis on the topics connected with the protection of the human rights of migrants and their families and their full and effective enjoyment, which should reflect the criteria for interpretation laid down by concerned bodies and courts when applying the International Law of Human Rights.
- The need to promote the free mobility of people within the region by strengthening subregional and regional consensus on the matter.
- The progress achieved by the implementation strategies seeking to link South American migrants to their national and local communities and reincorporate them into these communities.
- The programmatic and operational meaning of the Plan of Action for International Migration in South America, as an expression of the regional consensus in order to attain higher governability levels concerning migration.
- The will to consolidate the South American Forum on International Migration as the political space of the region whose purpose is to generate and coordinate initiatives and programmes seeking to promote and develop policies about international migration and its link to regional development and integration.

DECLARE:

First: The “South American Forum on Migration” reaffirms the Plan of Action adopted at the III South American Conference on Migration (Quito, 2002) and grants it the role of operationally developing and facilitating the accomplishment of the strategic objectives which have been established.

Second: It identifies as core components for its objectives: a) Fostering and developing all policies, programmes and actions facilitating the circulation, permanence and residence of nationals from the countries of the region, within the region; b) Coordinating actions for the assistance for and protection of the human rights of migrants, particularly South American migrants; c) Promoting the incorporation of the migration variable into the several bilateral and multilateral negotiation levels connected with the political, economic, commercial and environmental relations developed by South American governments.

Third: The conclusions adopted at this Conference reiterate the recognition and respect of the provisions set forth in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees, as well as the rules and standards for human rights complementing the protection of asylum-seekers and refugees.



Fourth: It underlines the importance of resorting to the positive experience of the reciprocal consular assistance mechanisms of the Andean Community and the enlarged MERCOSUR and points out the advisability of a South American agreement so as to implement reciprocal consular assistance.

Fifth: It ratifies the importance of organizing a workshop to share experiences and collect good practices developed by the various linking programmes carried out by several countries in the region. The Delegation of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay offered the venue to host this event.

Sixth: It acknowledges the importance of promoting the development of border integration areas.

Seventh: It urges the Member States of the Andean Community and the enlarged MERCOSUR to develop joint strategies on free mobility within the South American region.

Eighth: It gives support to and decides to participate in the implementation and strengthening process of the South American Observatory on Migration (OSUMI), as proposed by the Technical Secretariat of the Conference.

Ninth: It supports the organization of a specialized workshop on the production of statistics about migration, generating reliable information as well as comprehensive technological solutions available at present, and stressing the good practices on the matter developed in the region. The Delegation of the Argentine Republic offered the venue to host this event.

Tenth: It reaffirms the importance of the activities undertaken in relation to education for migration and underscores the role played by IOM in training and instruction activities for officials, professionals, technicians, and members of the civil society.

Eleventh: It recognizes the fundamental importance of other organizations in terms of this issue, particularly UNESCO, ILO and OEI, among others. Along these lines, the Conference draws attention to the joint initiative developed by IOM, UNESCO and OEI through the Iberoamerican Programme of Education, Culture and Migration (PIECUM) in coordination with Latin American and Spanish universities.

Twelfth: It encourages the organization of the II International Forum “Education for Migration”, emphasizing the importance attached to the participation of Education Ministries with a view to its incorporation into relevant curricula. The Delegation of Colombia offered the venue to host this event.

Thirteenth: It recommends that support should be given to the draft projects submitted by the Technical Secretariat in connection with the “Training Courses on Migration Governability and Management for Governmental Officials”.



Fourteenth: It stresses the significance of funding the technical and operational coordination activities of the Conference. It instructs the Technical Secretariat to design funding projects to be submitted for the consideration of international cooperation agencies with the aim of generating the financial means and resources for the adequate development and implementation of the Plan of Action. The strengthening of the Latin American Programme of Technical Cooperation on Migration (PLACMI) is singled out as a possible procedure to fulfil this objective.

Fifteenth: It requests coordinated technical and financial cooperation from international and regional organizations in order to:

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

Sixteenth: It requests the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as Technical Secretariat of the South American Forum on Migration, to organize the Third Technical Consultative Meeting in Preparation for the Fifth South American Conference on Migration.

Seventeenth: It requests the Technical Secretariat:

- a) To perform the pertinent updating of the Plan of Action along the axes established by the “South American Forum on Migration”, by following up the objectives, action lines, tasks, and initiatives of the said Plan of Action.
- b) To design studies and hold a specific technical meeting with the aim of exchanging experiences on the enforcement of the Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.
- c) To prepare the necessary documentation for the organization of the Third Technical Consultative Meeting in Preparation for the Fifth South American Conference on Migration.

Eighteenth: It instructs the Delegation of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, with the co-sponsorship of all delegations from South American countries, to put forward a resolution for the institutionalisation of the South American Forum as a regional mechanism at the 2003 November Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration.



Nineteenth: It decides to submit this Declaration by means of the Pro Tempore Presidency, for the consideration of the Summit of Member Countries of the enlarged MERCOSUR and the Andean Community which will take place in Montevideo next 16 December 2003.

Twentieth: It accepts the offers made by the Governments of the Republic of Bolivia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host the Fifth South American Conference on Migration and the Third Technical Consultative Meeting in Preparation for the said Conference, respectively. These events will be organized in 2004.

Twenty first: To recognize the importance of the contribution of the Governments, International Agencies and civil society organizations participating as observers at the Fourth South American Conference on Migration.

Twenty second: To thank: the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for organizing and hosting the Fourth South American Conference on Migration and for the hospitality extended to all participating Delegations; the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for its valuable contribution to this event as the Technical Secretariat of the Conference, and for the participation of the IOM Director General, Mr. Brunson McKinley.

Montevideo, Uruguay, 7 November 2003.