

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION,  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

*Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*

Based on extensive experience conducting research, providing assistance and engaging in capacity-building, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) — Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)— has drawn up a workplan on international migration, human rights and development in line with the following objectives:

1. Following up resolution 615 (XXXI)<sup>1</sup> adopted at the meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development in Uruguay in 2006;
2. Following up the mandates established at the high-level Ibero-American meetings;
3. Leading the development account project on migration and development in collaboration with other regional commissions and the Population Division of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA).

A. FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION 615 (XXXI) OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION  
OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF ECLAC IN 2006

The documents presented at the thirty-first session of ECLAC, which took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 20 to 24 March 2006 were summarized in the publication *International migration, human rights and development in Latin America and the Caribbean: summary and conclusions*. The papers compiled in this document investigate the trends and problems associated with international migration and provide advice to Governments in the region on how to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of international migration for development, within a human rights framework. The main message from ECLAC to Governments in the region is that international migration is both a development and a human rights issue, which requires implementing integrated actions within the Latin American and Caribbean context, broadening free movement of people, maximizing the positive aspects of migration and protecting the human rights of all migrants.

Resolution 615 (XXXI) of the thirty-first session of the Commission supports the work done by ECLAC and calls for countries in the region to ratify and adhere to international instruments related to international migration. It also establishes the creation of an inter-institutional group, coordinated by ECLAC, to monitor topics related to international migration and development in the region. The preparations for the implementation of this mandate started in 2007 and several United Nations agencies and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) were invited to participate.

In September 2008, ECLAC also published the book entitled *América Latina y el Caribe: migración internacional, derechos humanos y desarrollo* which summarizes much of the work carried out by CELADE in the area of international migration.

## B. FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL IBERO-AMERICAN MEETINGS

ECLAC, through CELADE, has actively followed the Ibero-American Summits of Heads of State and Government, including those of Salamanca, Spain, in 2005, Montevideo, Uruguay, in 2006, Santiago de Chile, Chile, in 2007 and San Salvador, El Salvador, in 2008. These meetings recognized the importance of international migration within the Ibero-American community. ECLAC maintains a close relationship with the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), particularly through agreements and collaboration. In response to its mandate, ECLAC provided support for the organization of the Ibero-American Meeting on Migration and Development held in Madrid, Spain, in July 2006, and the Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (FIBEMYD) held in Cuenca, Ecuador, from 10 and 11 April 2008, which resulted in the launch of a migration plan known as the Cuenca Plan. At both events, the Commission proposed to place human rights at the core of the discussions on international migration among origin, transit and destination countries. This proposal recognized the positive contribution of migrants to development, promoted full respect for migrants' human rights and advocated a central role for migrants in the migration processes. It also called for the identification and dissemination of best practices in the field of international migration.

At the seventeenth Ibero-American Summit held in Santiago de Chile, Chile, in 2007, the Heads of State and Government decided to include the following paragraph in the Declaration of Santiago, "... in accordance with the agreements of the fifteenth and sixteenth Ibero-American summits, the member countries hereby adopt the text of the Multilateral Convention for Social Security and commit themselves to carrying out the internal procedures necessary for its prompt entry into effect."<sup>2</sup> ECLAC presented a study at this Summit on the estimated number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the Convention. This document was well received and approved by the attending Heads of State and Government. The Programme of Action agreed at the seventeenth Summit instructed the Cuenca Forum to "devise an action programme on migration that, in keeping with the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development, promotes the protection of the human rights of migrants."<sup>3</sup> Article 48 of the same documents requested that ECLAC, "in the framework of its powers and mandate, continue to support the Ibero-American Secretariat in the implementation of that Programme of Action."<sup>3</sup> At the eighteenth Summit held in 2008, Head of State and Government decided to include the following paragraph in the Declaration of San Salvador, "... to promote, within the framework of the historical and cultural bonds that unite Ibero-American countries, considering the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development, in accordance with the international instruments on the issue and respecting the current national legislation, a structured and comprehensive dialogue which allows to overcome situations that affect migrants and their families and to advance on the elaboration of a positive and proactive migration agenda linked to human development, based on the full respect of their human rights, independently of their migratory condition."<sup>4</sup>

In compliance with the provisions of the Montevideo Commitment and in close coordination with the Ibero-American Secretariat, CELADE conducted two studies that were presented at the 2008 Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development which focused on (a) international migration in Ibero-America, with special emphasis on the marked increase in international migration in recent years and its demographic effects and (b) the social and economic effects of migration in Argentina, Costa Rica and Spain.

Some 400 people participated in FIBEMYD, including delegates of the 22 Ibero-American countries and other countries, such as the Philippines and the United States of America, experts, academics, and representatives of international organizations and civil

society. Senior officials of the Government of Ecuador, the Director General of the IOM, the Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), the Director of CELADE and the Director of the Ibero-American Social Security Organization spoke at the opening ceremony, which also included recorded greetings from the Presidents of Honduras and Spain. A tripartite agreement among SEGIB, ECLAC and IOM to follow up on the Forum was signed.

In October 2008, ECLAC, together with SEGIB and IOM, presented the book *I Foro Iberoamericano sobre Migración y Desarrollo: Unidos por las migraciones* which brought together and summarized the work and results of the FIBEMYD meeting. The launch was held in Madrid, Spain, and attended by Ms. Alicia Bárcena, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. Her speech on that occasion is included in the annex to this document. The book was also presented at the eighteenth Ibero-American Summit held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 29 to 31 October 2008, at which the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the Cuenca Plan.

As part of the tripartite agreement between ECLAC, IOM and SEGIB, the Commission is taking part in the activities for the preparation of the second Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development to be held in San Salvador, El Salvador, in 2010. Within the framework of the tripartite agreement, CELADE developed a project on “The impact of the Ibero-American multilateral agreement on social security.” Further, a study on “Ibero-American migrants and direct or indirect beneficiaries of the Ibero-American Multilateral Agreement on Social Security” was developed, which described the main socio-demographic characteristics of these populations, including interactions between the process of ageing among migrants and the society of destination in selected countries of destination.

### C. THE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECT ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

During the 2009-2010 biennium, ECLAC, through CELADE, is leading the Development Account project on “Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: Maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impact.” The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)) and the Population Division of UN/DESA will execute the project.

The objective of the project is to strengthen national capacities to incorporate international migration in national development strategies in order to maximize the benefits and minimize the negative effects of international migration. The specific objectives of the project include a focus on female migration and promoting cooperation through an intra- and interregional network for the exchange of information, studies, policies, experiences and best practices between countries and regions. The project’s expected beneficiaries are Governments, international and intergovernmental agencies, research centres, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations working in migratory affairs.

The first coordination meeting for the project was held in New York from 6 to 7 April 2009. Participants at the meeting emphasized that the capacity-building aspects be prioritized by the project, which may warrant the realization of a series of regional as well as inter-regional workshops for Government representatives. A website will be created to consolidate information on activities, including reports, studies and meetings.

D. THE PROJECT GENDER EQUALITY, REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, AND RESPECT  
FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:  
PROMOTION OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, INCLUDING GENDER-BASED  
VIOLENCE (GBV) AND HIV/AIDS OF MOBILE POPULATIONS, PARTICULARLY YOUTH  
AND WOMEN, IN FIVE VULNERABLE BORDER AREAS

On December 31 2008, the first phase of the project on gender quality was concluded and at the present time the second phase is being executed. Under the coordination and supervision of CELADE, five reports were prepared on the situation of migrant populations along the border between Argentina-Bolivia (Plurinational State of) Ecuador-Colombia, Costa Rica-Nicaragua, Guatemala-Mexico, and the Dominican Republic-Haiti.

The first stage of the project focused on four activities, starting with a literature review of existing research and information on the topic of sexual and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS and gender violence directed at migrant women. Next, a profile of the socio-demographic characteristics of the mobile populations in the selected border areas was developed, followed by a survey of governmental, civil society and international organizations concerned with these issues. The last activity involved a compilation of public policies and normative —national and international— instruments regarding these topics.

The second phase focused on the finalization and publication of the five reports and the preparation of a final comparative report concerning the five border areas. The results of the project and major conclusions were presented by CELADE at a technical seminar held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 28 to 30 October 2009.

The lack of public policies relating to these matters stems from the obstacles hindering the promotion of sexual and reproductive health which, in turn, stem from deficiencies and shortcomings of information in this regard. In this context, it is essential to generate research and analysis in this area in order to contribute to the formulation of public policies and legislation.

Since September 2008, CELADE has been involved in defining, coordinating and monitoring the work of consultants who are preparing reports on each of the selected border areas and has assisted consultants to write the final report. The research has accentuated the disparities existing between the five border regions in terms of availability of information as well as the presence of Government agencies, civil society, and other organizations that are promoting and providing services in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. Moreover, disparities in the realm of public policies and the employment of normative instruments became obvious.

Because of the complexity of migration dynamics in the different regions, it was necessary to use a broad criterion when defining mobile populations. Adhering to a more traditional definition of migration meant leaving out, in the majority of cases, part of a phenomenon that is in itself heterogeneous and therefore very rich and complex in its analytical dimensions.

E. OTHER INITIATIVES CARRIED OUT BY CELADE

1. *Workshop on temporary migrant workers programme of the Regional Conference on Migration*

CELADE participated in the workshop on Temporary Migrant Workers Programme (TMWP) of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), organized by the Technical Secretary of the RCM in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 23 to 24 April 2009. The conference was sponsored by the Governments of Canada and El Salvador, IOM, the Ibero-American General Secretariat, and CELADE.

The main objective of the workshop was to exchange information in order to identify initiatives aimed at migrant workers and to reinforce cooperation mechanisms between States. One of the crucial aspects underscored was the importance of allowing migrant workers to exercise their rights in countries of origin, transit and destination. At this meeting, CELADE presented a paper on the characteristics of the migratory work force in the Americas.

*2. Workshop on the challenges of the Ibero-American migration agenda in the context of the international economic crisis*

In the framework of the tripartite agreement between ECLAC, IOM and SEGIB, the Commission collaborated with the Fox Center in organizing the opening session of the workshop on the challenges of the Ibero-American migration agenda in the context of the international economic crisis, held in Guanajuato, Mexico, from 7 to 8 September 2009.

Mexican Government representatives, including some from the province of Guanajuato, as well as representatives of ECLAC, IOM, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), experts, academics, civil society organizations and university students attended the meeting.

*3. Structured and comprehensive dialogue of Latin America and the Caribbean with the European Union on migration and development*

In September 2009, the Commission presented the document “Notes on international migration and development: Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union”, which was prepared for the High-Level Meeting of Government representatives on migration held in Brussels, Belgium, on 25 September 2009 within the framework of the dialogue between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union (EU-LAC) on migration and development. Apart from analyzing patterns and trends of international migration in both regions, the document presented an analysis of the effects of the global economic crisis on international migration.

*4. XXVI International population conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in Marrakech, Morocco*

CELADE participated in the XXVI population conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 27 September to 2 October 2009. Five presentations were given by CELADE in different sessions of the conference, including one about “International migration and indigenous peoples in Latin America: old issues, emerging problems and the need for a multinational approach in migration policies.”

*5. Workshop on the implementation of SICREMI*

The first technical workshop on the implementation of the Continuous Labour Migration Reporting System for the Americas (SICREMI) took place at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago de Chile, Chile, from 13 to 16 October 2009. The workshop organized by the OAS

and CELADE, was attended by Government representatives and experts from ministries of foreign affairs, statistical and migration departments from Argentina, Belize, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Uruguay. In addition, representatives of ECLAC, the International Labour Organization (ILO), IOM and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) participated.

The workshop aimed at (a) preparing the first SICREMI Report 2010; (b) presenting and consolidating a network of institutional correspondents, and (c) consolidating a strategy with the network of institutional correspondents in order to write reports about international migration. During the workshop, participants also discussed an inventory of statistical operations which were carried out by different national offices to produce information and data about migration. Furthermore, participants defined technical data containing basic indicators which were selected for the first edition of the SICREMI reporting system.

Overall, the project relies on the collaboration with the OECD, which developed the idea of creating a continuous reporting system on migration similar to that of SOPEMI. The workshop took place within the framework of the agreement between ECLAC and the OAS.

#### *6. Participation in academic and teaching activities*

Through presentations on international migration, human rights and development, CELADE also participated in activities organized by academic institutions, such as the Diploma Course in Research and Integration of International Migrants and Governance of Multicultural Social Services, offered by the Universidad de Chile, and the International Diploma Course in Human Rights and Communication at the Henry Dunant Foundation in Latin America. CELADE also participated in the tenth International Conference of Population Studies, organized by the Argentinean Association of Population Studies (AEPA) which took place in Catamarca, Argentina, from 4 to 6 November 2009.

### F. THE DISTINCT FEATURES OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In recent years, the number of international migrants originating in Latin American and the Caribbean has increased from an estimated 21 million migrants in 2000 to almost 26 million migrants in 2005, representing 13 per cent of the 200 million international migrants in the world estimated for 2005. International migrants represented about 1.3 per cent of the total population in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2010 (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2009). According to CELADE estimates, Latin American and Caribbean emigrants represented four per cent of the total population in the region in 2005. That is to say, for every international migrant in the region, four emigrants were found outside of the region. The exceptions to this pattern were Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Costa Rica in Latin America, and Bahamas, Barbados and Puerto Rico and other island states in the Caribbean. In these countries, the proportion of international migrants in the total population was close to 10 per cent and in some Caribbean island states, the proportion was even higher.

These numbers indicate that for some countries a high proportion of people from Latin America and the Caribbean are residing outside their countries of origin. For example, in some countries in the Caribbean, more than 20 per cent of their populations are living abroad, while in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua and Uruguay, these percentages fluctuate between 8 to 15 per cent.

## G. THE STATUS OF MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Many countries of the region have ratified the Palermo protocols while there is a specific programme for the protection of migrants within the framework of the OAS and the Summit of the Americas process. There is also a general follow-up process for the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families, but the delay in the ratification of the Convention suggests that it has yet to be recognized as a core instrument of migrant protection.

As of July 2009, the Convention had been ratified by Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The Convention still has not been ratified by all countries in the region and civil society organizations have played a leading role in defending the human rights of migrants and in providing assistance to immigrants. Steps need to be taken to raise awareness of the Convention to demonstrate its validity as part of the history of international rights, and to eradicate the prejudices that tend to create opposition to its adoption. Fulfilling this task is imperative for laying the groundwork for the construction of a realistic and effective platform for the protection of migrants in the region.

TABLE I  
STATUS OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION  
OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES  
(AUGUST 2009)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification</i>
Albania		2007	Lesotho		2005
Algeria		2005	Liberia	2004	
Argentina		2007	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		2004
Azerbaijan		1999	Mali		2003
Bangladesh	1998		Mauritania		2007
Belize		2001	Mexico		1999
Benin	2005		Montenegro	2006	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		2000	Morocco		1993
Bosnia and Herzegovina		1996	Nicaragua		2005
Burkina Faso		2003	Niger		2009
Cambodia	2004		Nigeria		2009
Cape Verde		1997	Paraguay		2009
Chile		2005	Peru		2005
Colombia		1995	Philippines		1995
Comoros	2000		Rwanda		2008
Ecuador		2002	Sao Tome and Principe	2000	
Egypt		1993	Senegal		1999
El Salvador		2003	Serbia	2004	
Gabon	2004		Seychelles		1994
Ghana		2000	Sierra Leone	2004	
Guatemala		2003	Sri Lanka		1996
Guinea		2000	Syrian Arab Republic		2005
Guinea-Bissau	2000		Tajikistan		2002
Guyana	2005		Timor-Leste		2004
Honduras		2005	Togo	2001	
Indonesia	2004		Turkey		2004
Jamaica		2008	Uganda		1995
Kyrgyzstan		2003	Uruguay		2001

NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For a copy of resolution 615 (XXXI), see [http://www.eclac.cl/pses31/noticias/paginas/8/24208/615\(XXXI\)Migration.pdf](http://www.eclac.cl/pses31/noticias/paginas/8/24208/615(XXXI)Migration.pdf) (accessed 15 March 2010).

<sup>2</sup> For the full text of the Declaration of Santiago, see [http://www.oiss.org/IMG/pdf/declaracion\\_santiago.pdf](http://www.oiss.org/IMG/pdf/declaracion_santiago.pdf) (accessed 15 March 2010).

<sup>3</sup> For the full text of the Programme of Action, see [http://www.segib.org/documentos/28/esp/programa\\_accion\\_dec\\_santiago\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.segib.org/documentos/28/esp/programa_accion_dec_santiago_1_.pdf) (accessed 15 March 2010).

<sup>4</sup> For the full text of the Declaration of San Salvador, see [http://www.segib.org/upload/Declaracion%20de%20San%20Salvador\(1\).pdf](http://www.segib.org/upload/Declaracion%20de%20San%20Salvador(1).pdf) (accessed 15 March 2010).



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ANNEX

SPEECH GIVEN BY MS. ALICIA BÁRCENA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECLAC,  
AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK  
I FORO IBEROAMERICANO SOBRE MIGRATION Y DESARROLLO:  
UNIDOS POR LAS MIGRACIONES

[The First Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development: united by migration]

Madrid, 10 October 2008

Enrique Iglesias, Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Secretariat;  
William Lacy Swing, Director General of International Organization for Migration;  
Trinidad Jiménez, Secretary of State for Ibero-America;

On behalf of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, I would like you to know what a tremendous source of satisfaction it is for us to present this book here today along with you. This study synthesizes the valuable efforts and contributions made by the first Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development, held in Cuenca, Ecuador, on 10 and 11 April last year.

Given the Commission's ongoing commitment to researching and addressing the issues involved in international migration, human rights and development in Latin America and the Caribbean, participating in the Ibero-American Forum has been a top priority for us. This commitment also forms part of the heritage of critical and innovative work on social and economic development that has shaped the history of ECLAC.

We know today that migration, like many other social phenomena, has several different faces. As ECLAC has consistently pointed out in different discussion forums, while it is true that migration brings with it opportunities for development for the nations involved, it also entails risks for migrants themselves and losses of human and social capital for the countries of origin. The great potential embodied in this multifaceted phenomenon poses major challenges for the countries of Ibero-America. It also commits us to addressing the subject through dialogue and cooperation, however, and action in this area will have to look beyond the crisis currently affecting the world economy and the international financial system.

Allow me to share some thoughts with you from our regional viewpoint. In the 1990s, as the result of a careful analysis of the situation, ECLAC drew attention to a historic paradox that had emerged and which became particularly apparent in the early 2000s: at a time when the world is more interconnected than ever and when financial and trade flows are being liberalized, formidable barriers to the free movement of persons persist. These are especially notable in our region. This observation has led us to highlight that migration is in fact being formally excluded from the current globalization process, an idea which we continue to develop today.

We have stressed, for example, that little value has been attributed to migration as a force for strengthening economic and labour, social and political, cultural and value-based ties around the world and that multiple factors, starting with development asymmetries and the demand for migrant workers, are driving this phenomenon. The analytical work of ECLAC has stimulated debate about one aspect of migration in particular: the juxtaposition of the motivation to migrate

and restrictions on it place many migrants in positions of vulnerability. Migration therefore needs to be viewed as a human rights issue and to be incorporated as much as possible into the agendas for cooperation within the region and elsewhere.

I should point out that this task, which has yet to be fully completed, has met with mixed success. The *idée-force* underpinning ECLAC thinking on migration and development has paved the way for many of the initiatives flourishing today: agreements need to be reached to establish a framework of governance for migration.

Progress along this path has been slow. The first decade of the twenty-first century is already drawing to a close, yet we have not seen (nor do we foresee) even a basic step towards liberalization in the area of mobility, and, indisputably, many Latin American migrants still find themselves in vulnerable positions whether prior to emigrating, during their journey, when trying to integrate in the host country or, increasingly, during repatriation.

Worryingly, even though migration has begin to receive more attention in cooperation agendas, action is not being translated into real progress. There has been a tangible shift in how the tensions and inconsistencies surrounding the role of migration in globalization are being viewed. Now, however, we seem to be confronted with a new paradox, one that the Ibero-American Summit seems to be addressing in a timely manner and that ECLAC will continue to examine in close detail: the higher up migration is on international agendas, the more migration-related issues seem to arise. Migration thus runs the risk of becoming stigmatized, and the positive facets that have always been associated with the free movement of people are in danger of being overlooked.

In what way do the discussions on globalization and international migration today differ then from those of a few years ago?

ECLAC has indicated at several intergovernmental forums that migration is an increasingly complex phenomenon and that various aspects of international migration are becoming key issues on development agendas at both the regional and the national level. Hence the flurry of interest in performing detailed studies, reaching agreements and designing policies on the subject and the emergence of migration as a recurring topic of discussion in countries around the world. Now is the time to seize the historic opportunity that has arisen to address the issue. The initiative taken by the Cuenca Forum has been exemplary in this respect.

Commendable efforts are being made by the countries of Ibero-America to provide institutional responses to international migration within a framework of rational action and respect for human rights. Although the specifics of each case have differed, the progress made has been both notable and tangible. Governments now need to intensify these efforts and invite civil society and international agencies to participate in the preservation and defence of those rights.

Over the years, the strategic role that migration plays in economic and social development, which is clearly exemplified in our Ibero-American community, has been explicitly acknowledged.

The overlap between migration and development received special attention at the previous three Ibero-American Summits of Heads of State and Government. It is also reflected in the Commitment of Montevideo on Migration and Development that was adopted at the sixteenth

Ibero-American Summit held in Uruguay. This instrument constituted a landmark agreement in the treatment of migration issues (and their links with development and human rights) within the Ibero-American community.

As the Governments stated in the Commitment, priority now needs to be awarded to addressing the interplay between migration and development through a global approach that fosters closer bilateral and multilateral cooperation in a number of areas, most notably in: remittances; the orderly management of migratory flows; the promotion and protection of human rights; the prevention of, and fight against, the smuggling and trafficking of migrants; undocumented migration; the promotion of a multilateral dialogue; and the participation of civil society.

Hence the importance of the establishment of the Forum, which is the most appropriate and adequate instance for exchanging experiences of joint action among the countries of Ibero-America and for building ever stronger modalities for cooperation that will make it possible to continue the implementation and follow-up of the mandates of the Salamanca Declaration, the Montevideo Commitment and the Programme of Action of the Santiago Declaration.

In this framework, the implementation of the Cuenca Programme of Action will make it possible to take advantage of, and to boost, the vast stock of good practices that exists in the countries of Ibero-America, while at the same time seeking out suitable policy responses to meet the complex challenges that migration and development pose to our nations.

Before closing, I would like to use this occasion to highlight the joint work carried out by SEGIB, IOM and ECLAC within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Tripartite Agreement, which represents a hugely valuable contribution in terms of inter-agency cooperation in the performance of activities under the Cuenca Programme of Action.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to working within the framework of that Agreement and to furthering the follow-up activities of the first Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development.

Lastly, let me reiterate, as we did in Cuenca, that international migration poses a major challenge to the democracies of Ibero-America. The failure to integrate migrants represents a serious shortfall in terms of the democratic quality, plurality and inclusiveness of our societies. This shortfall needs to be addressed by all the social and State agents involved because it institutionalizes the exclusion of migrants from the reach of public policy, blocks their access to citizenship and impedes the full exercise of their rights. The integration of migrants into society, on the other hand, strengthens the democratic nature of our societies, increases social cohesion, facilitates and stimulates a sense of belonging in the host country and promotes the recognition of migrants as members of society with equal rights.

Thank you very much.