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Hemispheric Conference on International Migration:
Human Rights and the Traffic in Persons in the Americas

Santiago, Chile, 20-22 November 2002

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND

The Hemispheric Conference on International Migration: Human Rights and the Traffic in Persons in the Americas will take place in Santiago, Chile, from 20 to 22 November 2002. It is being convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/203 and ECLAC resolutions 590(XXIX) and 592(XXIX).

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) are also collaborating on this meeting, which enjoys the sponsorship of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Representatives of the Governments of ECLAC member countries and of international organizations, as well as eminent persons from the academic world, are being invited to attend this meeting. In addition, a number of civil society organizations working on these issues will be participating both in the Conference and in a concurrent side event.

This meeting is intended to strengthen cooperation among Governments in the field of international migration, to help identify mechanisms for protecting and promoting the human rights of migrants and for combating and preventing the traffic in persons and, in so doing, to fulfil the relevant international mandates and agreements in these areas.

It is also expected that the outcome of the Conference will complement the agreements reached at the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec, Canada, in April 2001, which assigned political priority to the issue of migration and to the Plan of Action of the Summit. The Plan of Action establishes a set of goals with a view to promoting the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families, as well as combating and preventing the traffic in persons.

B. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The central issues to be examined during the Conference will be addressed during panel discussions in which representatives of Governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and academic institutions will participate. The scheduled presentations for each panel will be followed by a general debate presided over by the chairperson of the Conference. Once the representatives of member Governments of ECLAC have completed their statements, the floor will be opened to other participants.

The provisional agenda and annotations thereto are provided below.

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Election of officers

In accordance with the standard procedure used for meetings and conferences organized by ECLAC, the participating delegations will select a chairperson, two or more deputy chairpersons and a rapporteur.

It is suggested that the selection of presiding officers be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on Wednesday, 20 November, prior to the opening session.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The representatives will have before them the provisional agenda of the Conference (LC/L.1770) for their consideration and adoption.

Member countries may make such observations or suggest such modifications as they deem appropriate. It is suggested that the agenda be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on Wednesday, 20 November.

3. International migration in the Americas

This agenda item will be examined from three perspectives: (a) international migration in the Americas; (b) migration and occupational status; and (c) intergovernmental dialogues and consultations concerning international migration in the Americas.

4. Human rights of migrants

This topic will be addressed from three different vantage points. Each of these analyses will be further divided into units, as follows:

Unit I. Human rights and mobility of persons:

- (a) Human rights and migration
- (b) Human rights, migration and regional security
- (c) Human rights, refuge and asylum

Unit II. Gender and age concerns relating to the human rights of migrants:

- (a) Human rights of migrant children and the children of migrants
- (b) Human rights of migrant women
- (c) Human rights of migrant workers

Unit III. Frameworks and programmes for promoting and protecting the human rights of migrants: main features of an inter-American programme that could be pursued in conjunction with OAS to promote and protect the human rights of migrants.

5. The traffic in persons

The consideration of this agenda item will be divided into three thematic units which will, in turn, be subdivided as follows:

Unit I. The traffic in persons and human rights:

- (a) National and international legislation in force and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which supplements the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
- (b) The traffic in persons and the human rights of migrants

Unit II. Diagnostic analysis of the traffic in persons:

- (a) Diagnostic analysis of the traffic in persons in the Americas
- (b) The traffic in women
- (c) The traffic in children

Unit III. Prevention and assistance (best practices and future activities):

- (a) Applications of the law against the traffic in persons
- (b) Programmes to combat and prevent the traffic in persons
- (c) Assistance to victims of the traffic in persons
- (d) The traffic in persons and the vulnerability of migrants
- (e) The role of civil society in preventing and combating the traffic in persons
- (f) Considerations relating to a plan of work to combat and prevent the traffic in persons in the Americas

6. Concluding panel discussion

A concluding panel discussion will be held on the morning of 22 November in which guest experts and representatives of civil society organizations will participate. The report of the side event scheduled by civil society organizations will be presented at this time.

7. Conclusions

The presiding officers of the Conference will present the main conclusions of the meeting to the plenary.

