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LC/L.2974

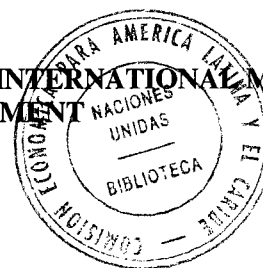
17 November 2008

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventh coordination meeting on international migration
Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat

New York, 20-21 November 2008

**ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY ECLAC IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT**



Based on an extensive experience of research, provision of assistance and capacity building, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC has drawn up a work plan on international migration, human rights and development in line with the following objectives:

1. Following up the resolution adopted at the meeting of the ECLAC sessional 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. Elaborating a Development Account project on migration and development in collaboration with the other Economic Commissions and DESA-Population Division.

Sections 4, 5 and 6 of this report provide the framework for the proposed work plan.

1. Follow-up to Resolution 615(XXXI) of the thirty-first session of ECLAC

The documents presented at the thirty-first session of ECLAC, which are summarized in the text *International migration, human rights and development in Latin America and the Caribbean: summary and conclusions*,¹ investigate the trends and problems associated with international migration and provide advice to Governments of the region on how to face the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of international migration for development, within a human rights framework. The main message from ECLAC to the Governments of the region is that international migration is both a development and a human rights issue, which requires the implementation of integrated actions that facilitate its administration within a Latin American and Caribbean perspective, broaden the free movement of persons, exploit the positive aspects of migration and protect the human rights of all migrants.

Resolution 615(XXXI) backs the work done by ECLAC and calls for the countries of 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.

The printing stage of the book that summarizes much of the work carried out by ECLAC through CELADE in the area of international migration entitled *International migration, human rights and development in Latin America and the Caribbean* was close to completion at the end of the third quarter of 2008.²

2. Follow-up to the high-level Ibero-American meetings

ECLAC, through CELADE, has actively followed up the process of the Ibero-American Summits of Heads of State and Government, including those of Salamanca (2005), Montevideo (2006) and Santiago de Chile

¹ LC/G.2303(SES.31/11).

² LC/G.2358-P.

(2007). Those meetings recognized the great importance of international migration within the Ibero-American community. ECLAC has established a solid 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 in July 2006 and the Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (FIBEMYD) held in Cuenca, Ecuador, on 10 and 11 April 2008, which resulted in the launch of a migration plan known as the Cuenca Plan. At both events, the Commission's proposal of placing human rights at the core of the discussions on international migration among origin, transit and destination countries was highlighted. This proposal recognizes the positive contribution of migrants to development, promotes full respect for migrants' human rights and advocates the humanization of migratory processes. It also calls for the identification and dissemination of best practices in the field of international migration.

At the seventeenth Ibero-American Summit held 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". ECLAC presented a study, in brochure format, at the seventeenth 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.³ 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." Article 48 of the same documents requests 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."

In compliance with the provisions of the Montevideo Commitment and in close coordination with SEGIB, CELADE – Population Division of ECLAC conducted two studies that were presented at the Forum: a diagnosis of international migration in Ibero-America, with special emphasis on the marked increase in international migration in recent years and its demographic effects; and a study of the social and economic effects of migration in three destination countries in Ibero-America (Argentina in South America, Costa Rica in Central America and Spain in Europe).

Some 400 people participated in FIBEMYDE: delegates of the 22 Ibero-American countries and other countries, such as the Philippines and the United States, experts, academics, and representatives of international organizations and civil society. Senior officials of the Government of Ecuador, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), the Director of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC and the Director of the Ibero-American Social Security Organization attended and 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.

ECLAC, together with SEGIB and IOM, presented the book *I Foro Iberoamericano sobre Migración y Desarrollo: Unidos por las migraciones*, in October 2008. This book brings together and summarizes the work and results of the FIBEMYD meeting. The launch was held in Madrid and attended by Ms. Alicia Bárcena, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. Her speech on that occasion is included in the

3 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)/Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID)/Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), *Estimación del número de trabajadores migrantes en Iberoamérica*, XVII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, Santiago, Chile, 2007.

annex to this document. The book was also presented at the eighteenth Ibero-American Summit held in San Salvador in 2008 at which the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the Cuenca Plan.

3. The Development Account project on migration and development in collaboration with the other Economic Commissions and DESA-Population Division

During the 2009-2010 biennium, ECLAC, through CELADE, will lead the Development Account project *“Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: Maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impact.”* The regional commissions (ECLAC, ECA, ESCWA, ECE and ESCAP) and the Population Division of DESA of the United Nations will execute the project.

The general objective of the project is to strengthen national capacities to incorporate the issues of international migration in national development strategies in order to maximize the benefits and minimize the negative effects of international migration. At the end of October 2008, upon receipt of the first allocation of funds, preparations started with the regional commissions and United Nations’ partners for the initial meeting to launch the project.

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-government organizations and civil society organizations working in migratory affairs.

4. The distinct features of international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean

According to studies conducted by ECLAC, in recent years there has been a strong increase in the number of Latin American and Caribbean migrants: from a total estimated 21 million in 2000 to almost 26 million in 2005, representing 13% of the 200 million immigrants in the world.

The total number of immigrants in Latin America and the Caribbean represents 1% of the regional population. On the other hand, the percentage of the Latin American and Caribbean emigrant population represents 4% of the regional population. That is to say, for every immigrant in the region, another four people are found outside of the region. The exceptions to this pattern are Argentina, Costa Rica and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Latin America, and Puerto Rico, Barbados, Bahamas and other island States in the Caribbean. In these nations, the proportion of immigrants in the national population borders 10% in the case of the Latin American countries and is even higher in the case of the Caribbean island States.

These numbers indicate a high proportion of Latin American and Caribbean people residing outside of their countries of origin. The impact on the national population in the countries of origin varies, however: many Caribbean nations have more than 20% of their populations living abroad; while in Latin America, these percentages fluctuate between 8% and 15%. This is the case of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua and Uruguay, among others.

5. Women and migration: the many faces of vulnerability

Throughout the region, Latin American women have progressively increased their participation in migration flows, migrating to different places, for different reasons, by themselves, with their families or to reunite with their families abroad. This issue has been extensively analysed by ECLAC through studies conducted by CELADE. These studies have focussed not only on the vulnerabilities associated with diverse forms of discrimination against female migrants, including sexual and labour exploitation, but also on the successful insertion of migrants in host countries, which potentially contributes to diminishing gender disparities.

In point of fact, in the receiving countries of Latin America, female migrant workers do find opportunities for insertion into the labour force, but these opportunities tend to be restricted to the domestic work sector. This points to the emergence of a transnational labour market composed of networks of women who work as housekeepers, personal caretakers, street vendors, waitresses and bartenders and perform other activities. The increasing transnational and feminization of the labour market are phenomena that have been simultaneously increasing in the region. The labour market, in its demand for cheap and flexible labour, makes use of labour identities anchored in gender relations, which constitutes an object of concern for the design of policy instruments.

The undocumented nature of female migration indicates a potential vulnerability because women are more frequently exposed to social risks, such as poverty, unemployment and subordination in their homes. They have less individual and institutional capacity for counteracting these risks and are victims of a stigma that leads to the perception that, due to the lack of opportunities in their countries of origin, they are willing to be smuggled or trafficked for any activity. The conflation of gender, ethnicity, nationality and lack of documents can lead to the most extreme human rights violations.

6. The status of migration and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean

Many countries of the region have ratified the Palermo protocols, and there is a specific programme for the protection of migrants within the framework of the Organization of American States (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.

At present, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Convention has been ratified by Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The enormous task that the defence of the rights of immigrants entails signifies that the ratification of the Convention could face serious difficulties if it is not widely accepted. Civil society organizations have played a leading role in the defence of human rights and the provision of assistance to immigrants.

In the view of ECLAC, steps need to be taken to raise awareness of the Convention, demonstrate its validity as part of the history of international rights and 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.

**STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF
ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES**
(October 2008)

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

Annex

**SPEECH GIVEN BY MS. ALICIA BÁRCENA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECLAC, AT
THE PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK
I FORO IBEROAMERICANO SOBRE MIGRACIÓN 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 begun 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 ordered 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.

