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Population and Development in
Latin America and the Caribbean**

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Population dynamics as an axis of sustainable development:
the Montevideo Consensus as a tool for reducing inequality
in the framework of human rights

Mexico City, 6-9 October 2015

**CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY ECLAC REGARDING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE, 2013-2015**

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A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the area of international migration, human rights and development remains focused on preparing technical proposals that serve as inputs for the design of national policies, programmes and legislation aimed at leveraging migration to help reduce asymmetries and inequalities at the regional, subregional and national levels.

The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC is responsible for the implementation of this component of the programme of work, pursuant to resolution 615 (XXXI), adopted by ECLAC at its thirty-first session in 2006. The Division also monitors the mandates of other intergovernmental bodies that issue guidelines on migration, although no such mandates were defined in the period covered by this report. Continual work was carried out to attend to various requests from countries, made via national government agencies, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

The activities described in this report were carried out under these mandates and in response to these requests between July 2013 and June 2015 and form part of work to follow up the Montevideo Consensus. One notable activity was the drafting of chapter F of the operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, entitled “International migration and protection of the human rights of all migrants”. This document, which seeks to operationalize the priority measures of the Consensus, was presented in successive drafts at meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in preparation for the second session of the Conference, to be held in Mexico in October 2015.

This process of following up and preparing the operational guide drew on the results of research conducted over the period into migration trends and patterns, as well as on policy agendas and national regulations, a review of the mobility of indigenous peoples and children and adolescents, future cooperation agendas, specialized regional publications drafted on the basis of censuses and surveys, training and technical assistance provided to the countries in the region, support for intergovernmental meetings, conferences and seminars and technical cooperation with civil society, academic institutions and labour organizations.

In this context, ECLAC also continued to provide a regional perspective in debates concerning follow-up to the second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.

All of these activities have helped ECLAC to gather ideas and proposals on international migration and development based on a regional perspective that has taken shape through dialogue and cooperation.

B. OVERVIEW OF MIGRATION IN THE REGION

1. General background on migration trends

International migration continues apace in Latin America and the Caribbean. Work undertaken by ECLAC has shown that the current migration patterns in the region display certain long-term continuities along with shifts in the magnitude and direction of flows and in the profile of the migrants. The three patterns evident in international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean since the mid-twentieth century have been emigration from the region, historic levels of immigration from abroad, and intraregional migration. There have been signs of a recent fall in migration to the main extraregional destinations, and immigration from other regions, although continuing, is also in decline. The region's emigration flows continue to outweigh accumulated immigration into the region. In particular, a strikingly steep rise has been seen in migration between countries within the region.

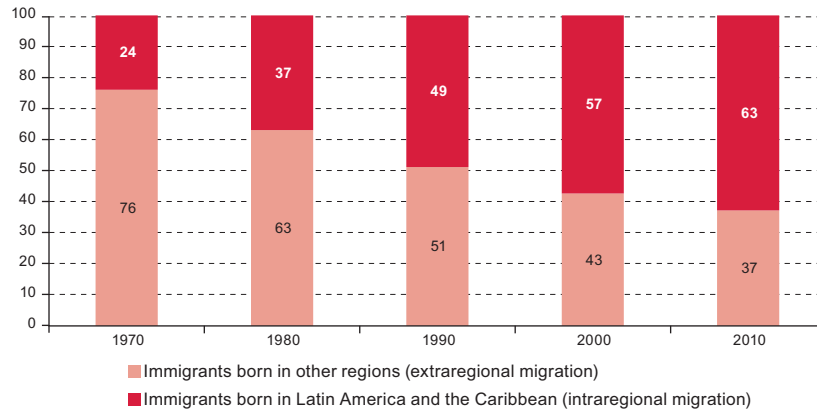
In this context, an estimated 30 million people from Latin America and the Caribbean resided outside the country of their birth around 2010, up from 26 million recorded in the 2000 round of censuses. According to national censuses, there were 7.6 million non-nationals living in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, equivalent to roughly a quarter of the number of emigrants and representing only 1.1% of the total population of the region. Immigrants come from both outside the region (37.2% of the immigrant population—a proportion that continues to fall in relative terms) and within the region (62.8%—a figure that is growing in respect of previous decades) (see figures 1 and 2).

Figure 2 shows that the ratio of the immigrant population to the native population remains fairly constant across the different subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean, ranging between 0.9% and 2.8%. Emigration, meanwhile, varies considerably between subregions; with the Caribbean and Central America presenting a particularly high proportion of emigrants in relation to the native population (11.1% and 10.2%, respectively).

A breakdown by country shows that Mexico accounts for 40% of regional emigration, with some 12 million of its citizens living abroad. Colombia and El Salvador, with about 2 million and 1.3 million nationals living elsewhere, respectively, are in second and third place in numerical terms. The principal recipient countries, in absolute terms, are Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mexico and Brazil. While Mexico is one of the countries with the highest number of recorded immigrants—almost a million people—they account for less than 1% of inhabitants. In Costa Rica, however, the 385,000 immigrants registered by the census make up 9% of the total population, the highest percentage in the region.

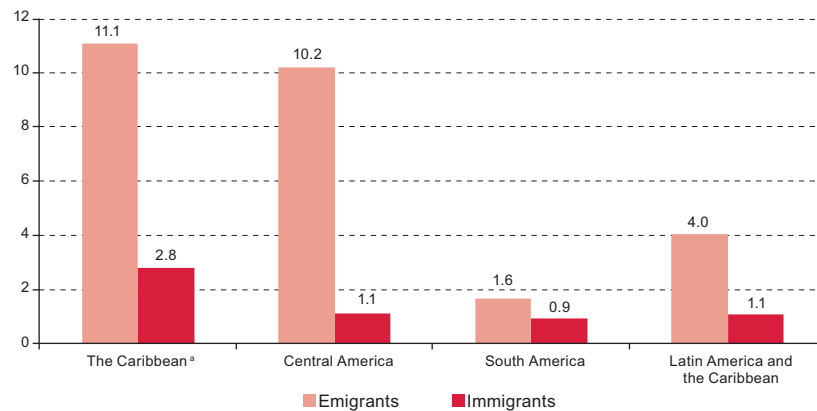
The United States continued to be the main destination for emigration and, although flows to that country from the region have fallen, long-term trends suggest that there are around 20.8 million people from the region in the United States. Even when discounting emigrants from Mexico—some 12 million people—the United States remains the top destination, although by only a small margin (Martínez Pizarro, Cano and Soffia, 2014). After that country, Spain is the second most popular destination outside the region, accounting for 8% of all emigrants from the region in 2010 (2.4 million people). Canada, the United Kingdom and Japan were emerging destinations in around 2000, and data from 2010 show that emigration flows in this direction have continued, although without displaying consistent growth.

Figure 1
Latin America and the Caribbean: immigrant population by origin, 1970-2010
(Percentages)



Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) Project, on the basis of J. Martínez, M.V. Cano and M. Soffia, “Tendencias y patrones de la migración latinoamericana y caribeña hacia 2010 y desafíos para una agenda regional”, *Población y Desarrollo series*, No. 109 (LC/L.3914), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2014.

Figure 2
Latin America and the Caribbean: immigrants and emigrants by subregion, around 2010
(Percentages of the national population)



Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) Project, on the basis of J. Martínez, M.V. Cano and M. Soffia, “Tendencias y patrones de la migración latinoamericana y caribeña hacia 2010 y desafíos para una agenda regional”, *Población y Desarrollo series*, No. 109 (LC/L.3914), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2014.

^a The Caribbean excludes Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

On the whole, the available information reveals a decline in migration flows out of Latin America and the Caribbean. This downward trend is attributable to a combination of several factors, such as the impact of the crisis on labour markets and wages, fiscal cuts, new rules on entering countries and a series of difficulties for migrants already residing abroad. In this context, ECLAC calls for the dynamics of intraregional migration to be considered with particular interest.

2. Intraregional migration dynamics

Intraregional population flows are currently flourishing, perhaps boosted by the combined effect of restrictions on and the high cost—for many people—of migration to developed countries and the greater ease of communication and travel, especially across borders, and the gradual emergence of more open and diverse labour markets. Many countries are receiving ever larger numbers of migrants, and immigration from neighbouring countries is becoming a multifaceted reality.

The data suggest that growth in intraregional migration was particularly robust in the period between the 2000 and 2010 census rounds, reflected in a surge of around 32% in the number of Latin Americans living outside their country of birth. This trend can also be observed directly in the rise in immigrants in countries for which information is available.

C. FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION 615(XXXI)

The thirty-first session of ECLAC, held in Uruguay in 2006, marked the first time a specific resolution on international migration had been adopted (resolution 615 (XXXI)). That resolution expresses support for the work of the Commission, establishes a mandate for the creation of an inter-agency group to be coordinated by ECLAC and urges the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to accede to and ratify international instruments dealing with migration. Since its adoption, a great deal of work has gone into implementing this mandate, with indicators of the impact of those efforts including the large number of activities that have been carried out and the Commission's extensive website on the subject.¹

1. Institutional activities and participation in deliberative meetings, advisory assistance and training initiatives

Between July 2013 and June 2015, training, technical assistance and cooperation activities were undertaken in collaboration with national public and academic institutions. Work was also carried out with civil society organizations that entailed participating in seminars, meetings and specialized courses related to migration, poverty, human rights and indicators on these issues.

Activities over the period focused on follow-up to the Montevideo Consensus and work concerning the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Ongoing training was imparted on migration-related issues concerning the Consensus in the module on international migration of the CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC Intensive Regional Course on Demographic Analysis (2013 and 2014 versions) and lectures were given in academics circles on the regional agreement.

¹ CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, "International migration" [online] <http://www.cepal.org/en/topics/international-migration>.

The technical assistance provided in this area included a study on estimations, methodology and sources of information on migrants from El Salvador, conducted under an agreement signed with the El Salvador office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 2013. As the Department of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC) of El Salvador had requested, the final report of this study was submitted in the second half of 2014.

Further research was undertaken as part of preparations for the first and second meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (held in November 2014 and June 2015, respectively) and led to the drafting of an outline for the chapter of the operational guide on priority action on migration, establishing lines of action, targets and indicators and containing comments on human rights and migration.

Census information from the 2010s for a total of 10 countries continued to be processed. Specifically, special tabulations of this information were made with a view to updating the database of the Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) project, available on the CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC website. This work, scheduled for completion in 2015, will soon be finished. A summary of tabulations of data from the 2000 and 2010 rounds was also made available on the CEPALSTAT database in the first half of 2015.

Since 2014, ECLAC has continued to work with Chile in the process of setting up the Migration Policy Council and its various working groups and in the discussions and the consultative process on the new draft immigration bill, including by providing technical cooperation for the workshops on international relations, childhood and information systems.

Relevant publications in this area include the document *Tendencias y patrones de la migración latinoamericana y caribeña hacia 2010 y desafíos para una agenda regional*, which was published in October 2014 and presented at the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in November 2014. The paper *Oportunidades e incertidumbre a la luz del Segundo Diálogo de Alto Nivel sobre Migración Internacional y Desarrollo* was published in *Coyuntura Demográfica* (see annex). A document on human rights is also forthcoming (published by the University of Guadalajara), as is a paper on trends in international migration in the region (published by the National Autonomous University of Mexico).²

Work was also carried out with civil society organizations, including participation in seminars, meetings and specialized courses on various issues, and collaboration with a wide range of international, regional and national academic and civil society institutions, particularly networks and research series of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP), national population associations, universities from several countries of the region (as well as Spain) and international organizations such as the Ibero-American Social Security Organization and the Migration and Development Network.

In short, as part of its missions and technical consulting activities in the field of migration, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC participated in the following events between July 2013 and June 2015 (usually with PowerPoint presentations):

² Entitled *Derechos humanos y agenda en migración internacional en América Latina: terminar con la cultura de la desprotección* and *Panorama de las tendencias y patrones de la migración latinoamericana y caribeña hacia 2010*, respectively.

- Twelfth Congress of the Association of Population Studies of Argentina (AEPA) held in Bahía Blanca, Argentina, in September 2013, at which CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC was invited to comment on two sessions.
- Thirteenth South American Conference on Migration held in Cartagena, Colombia, in November 2013, organized by the Government of Colombia, at which ECLAC strengthened its commitment in its capacity as an observer.
- Seminar on Coordination of Social Security systems, held in Montevideo in October 2013, organized by the Ibero-American Social Security Organization, at which an overview of migration in the region was presented.
- International Seminar on Migration Policy and the Paradox of Globalization, held in Brasilia in April 2014 by the Scalabrini Centre for Migration Studies (CSEM) and the Postgraduate Programme of the Centre for Multidisciplinary Advanced Studies (CEAM) of the University of Brasilia, at which CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC gave a presentation at an opening conference.
- Seminar on the State of Contemporary Migration: Constructing Integration Processes, held in Valparaíso, Chile, in April 2014 by the Extension Centre of the Chilean National Council for Culture and the Arts, at which CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC gave a presentation on migration in the region and Chile.
- Meeting on Human Rights and Migration Policy – Dialogue on Regional Integration, Migration Policies and Human Rights – Meeting on Public Policies, Migration and Human Rights, held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in June 2014, organized by the MERCOSUR Institute of Public Policy on Human Rights (IPPDH) and the Centre for Legal and Social Studies (CELS), at which ECLAC led a round table discussion and drafted the subsequent conclusions.
- Sixth Congress of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP), held in Lima in August 2014 (see next section for details).
- Fourteenth South American Conference on Migration, held by the Government of Peru in October 2014, which was a chance to strengthen ties with countries on migration-related issues and review work undertaken in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- Workshop “Presentation of the research findings on the collection and dissemination of information on international migration in Brazil”, held in Brasilia in October 2014 by the Government of Brazil and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), at which CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC presented a paper on the IMILA project.
- International Congress on Population, Health and Development in Mexico, organized in Mexico City by the National Autonomous University of Mexico in November 2014. CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC gave a talk on new trends in migration in Latin America and the Caribbean and the persistence of old problems, which will be published by the organizers.
- International Expert Panel on Censuses and Measuring International Migration, organized in Bogota in April 2015 by IOM and the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia. CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC presented two papers at the event: (a) a summary of specific recommendations for the 2010 census round; and (b) a summary of Chile’s experience with the census and other sources (drawn up in conjunction with the Sub-Department of Demographic Statistics of the Chilean National Institute of Statistics (INE)).

- Technical Meeting on Trends and Challenges in Skilled Migration Policy in South America, organized by IOM and the Network on Migration and Development in Buenos Aires in April 2015. Renowned experts participated at this closed workshop where they discussed three studies conducted as part of a joint project undertaken by the two entities to explore content and policy proposals for the countries of the region.
- Conference “UNASUR Day: Achievements in Constructing a South American Identity”, held as part of celebrations to mark Union of South American Nations Day on 17 April 2015. CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC gave a presentation on “The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development as a framework for migration policy in Latin America”.
- As part of the master’s programme on Migration, Human Rights and Public Policy at the University of Cuenca in Ecuador, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC gave classes on migration, distributed research material and analysed the Montevideo Consensus in detail in May 2015.

2. Inter-agency activities

In the second half of 2014 a cooperation agreement was signed with IOM with a view to conducting joint studies on migration trends and patterns. The agreement expired in March 2015 and the final publication synthesizing the work carried out is currently being revised, pending publication in the second half of 2015. Its findings are expected to be disseminated widely.

CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC participated actively, including by providing organizational support, in the Sixth Congress of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP), entitled “Population dynamics and sustainable development with equity” held in Lima from 12 to 15 August 2014. CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC collaborated in the thematic organization of the event (experts from the Division were part of the scientific committee), in coordinating between networks and by moderating the network on population and rights. Other activities included organizing meetings and providing comments on meetings on migration, return and related issues. Repeated references were made at the event to ongoing ECLAC activities concerning proposed ways of implementing the Montevideo Consensus and studies on migration.

Collaboration between ALAP and CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC on international migration was stepped up between 2013 and 2015, underpinned by common interests and the agreements reached on migration through the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and at the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Annex

Table 1
Publications issued between July 2013 and June 2015

No.	Title	Description	Date
1	<i>Tendencias y patrones de la migración latinoamericana y caribeña hacia 2010 y desafíos para una agenda regional</i>	<i>Población y Desarrollo</i> series, No. 109, LC/L.3914	October 2014
2	<i>Oportunidades e incertidumbre a la luz del Segundo Diálogo de Alto Nivel sobre Migración Internacional y Desarrollo</i>	Coyuntura Demográfica, No. 7, pp. 61-65	2015
3	<i>Derechos humanos y agenda en migración internacional en América Latina: terminar con la cultura de la desprotección</i>	Chapter in a publication of the University of Guadalajara	Forthcoming
4	<i>Panorama de las tendencias y patrones de la migración latinoamericana y caribeña hacia 2010</i>	Chapter in a publication of the National Autonomous University of Mexico	Forthcoming