

**BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> SOUTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION**  
**Caracas, July, 1-3, 2007**

**CARACAS DECLARATION**

The representatives of the Republic of Argentina, the Republic Bolivia, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Paraguay, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of Suriname, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, gathered within the framework of the 7th South American Conference on Migration, in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, between the 1st and 3rd of July 2007;

REAFFIRMING their commitment to fully respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention related to the Status of Refugees (1951), and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1967);

CONSIDERING the entering into force of the International Convention on the Protection of all Migrant Workers' and their Families' Rights of July 1, 2003, the opening and commencement of the activities of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, as well as the entering into force of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea on January 28, 2004, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children on December 25, 2003, instruments which supplement the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

BEARING IN MIND the Mercosur Residence Agreement and other migratory agreements arising from the Meeting of the Ministers of the Interior and Justice of Mercosur and Member States, the American Convention on Human rights, as well as the Andean Charter for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and other progresses made in multiple decisions of the Andean Community on migration matters, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994, as well as other international instruments on Human Rights ratified by our States;

BEARING IN MIND the Montevideo Declaration and the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development signed by the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American Community (2006), the commitments on migration assumed by the South American Heads of State and Government established in the Cochabamba Declaration (2006), and the result of the United Nations High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development;

REMEMBERING ALSO the Conclusions and Recommendations of the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons of the Organization of American States (Margarita Island, March 14-17, 2006), the Montevideo Declaration against Trafficking in Persons in Mercosur and Member States (Montevideo, November 16, 2005), the Asunción Declaration on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Illegal Migrants (June 8, 2001), and other documents and progresses pertaining to this matter, adopted in the South American region;

REMEMBERING that approximately half of South American migrations are bound to South America and that thanks to progresses made in the respective national legislations and regional agreements, significant achievements have been attained in terms of proper treatment for migrants in accordance with the current international commitments and universal humanitarian law;

AWARE that migration is a reality and a complex challenge that has to be faced integrally and within the framework of international cooperation;

REAFFIRMING that human beings must be the center of migratory programs and policies and that, therefore, the States must guarantee the respect of the human rights of migrants, regardless of their migratory status, nationality, social status, religion, political opinion, ethnic origin, gender or age;

RECOGNIZING that poverty, social exclusion and inequality of opportunities of access to education and employment, are factors that have a negative impact on the development of our countries and favor migration, and that it is our Governments' task to counteract these conditions;

REAFFIRMING the basic objectives reached at the South American Conferences on Migrations, and especially the goals included in the Action Plan;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the next Global Forum on Migration and Development which is to be held in Brussels, Belgium, on July 9-11, 2007, and the Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development in Cuenca on April 2008;

RESOLVE:

To reaffirm that migrant population represents a valuable contribution to the development of the host countries in the social, economic, political, cultural, scientific and academic areas; and the need to guarantee migrants' integration in the host societies through all-inclusive policies formulated with the participation of the communities involved;

To reiterate the unrestricted commitment with the promotion and respect of human rights of migrants and their families, regardless of their migratory status, nationality, ethnic origin, gender or age, in order to eliminate any kind of xenophobia and discrimination;

To assume historical reciprocity and common responsibility on migrations within the framework of universality as fundamental principle that serves as a basis for relations between countries of origin, transit and host countries. In this sense, host countries are required to grant fair and humanitarian treatment to migrants from our region within the framework of social inclusion and respect for human rights. Furthermore, actions are proposed to host countries aimed at favoring reception and integration of migrants of the region, such as:

- Promote orderly intra-regional and extra-regional migratory policies among South American States and the host countries that generate reciprocal benefits and guarantee the acceptance of migrants by host societies;

- Implement regularization policies for the condition of migrants and their families in host countries in accordance with international principles and commitments on migrants' human rights;

- Urge national and/or local governments, as well as the private sector to foster and strengthen the creation and consolidation of migrants associations; promote migrant insertion in host countries; and maintain a permanent and constructive dialogue with such associations, which favors an intercultural relation between origin and host communities;

- Promote mechanisms guaranteeing full respect of social and labor rights of migrant workers under the same conditions as the citizens of the host countries, regardless of their migratory status, in accordance with the protection granted by the relevant international laws and regulations;

- Reiterate that remittances are private financial flows resulting from the work of migrant population, which have an impact on the improvement of the living standard of their families and, thus, they are not to be considered, under any circumstances, official aid for development. We must minimize any hindrance to the transfer or remittances, by facilitating transactions, reducing their cost and guaranteeing migrants and their families their access to banking services;

To reject those economic policies that allow for the worsening of working conditions, exploitation of migrant workers and disrespect of their social and labor rights, and accordingly urge host countries to promote and develop public policies aimed at generating dignifying and decent jobs for migrants and their families in order to facilitate their integration into the host society;

To promote cooperation programs allowing the formulation of public policies for social development with the aim of changing structural causes of poverty and social exclusion for them to make the decisions to migrate based on preference rather than on necessity;

To insist on the need already mentioned in the 6th South American Conference on Migrations to incorporate migratory issues within the context of other international agendas on subjects affecting the causes of migratory movements, such as: international trade, human development, environment, the use of technologies, international cooperation for development and co-development, health and labor;

To develop joint mechanisms, intra-regional, interregional and international to strengthen measures and create conditions tending to eradicate the smuggling of illegal migrants as a result of the restrictions on migratory flows, and the implementation of actions aimed at preventing, punishing and repressing this crime, as well as duly protecting victims;

To reaffirm the decision to fight against the dreadful crime of trafficking in persons, and in this regard, to take measures and create conditions based on national legislations and within the framework in current international instruments to prevent, repress and punish this crime, and to ensure the protection of victims during their stay in transit or host countries and their assisted return to their country of origin or usual residence, as well as access to legal counsel and protection;

To recognize with concern that the existence of skilled migrant workers represents a high economic and social cost for the countries of origin, thus making it necessary to favor the development of national policies and international cooperation to address the causes of these migrations and make it possible for these migrants to maintain their ties with their countries of origin and foster the transfer of scientific-technological knowledge, as well as the productive and sustainable development of the countries of origin;

To strengthen mechanisms for the collection, compilation, dissemination and exchange of information on migratory flows in order to classify migrant population, such information being a fundamental input for the formulation of proper migratory policies; and to promote the strengthening of bilateral, regional and international cooperation and coordination in the area of migratory flows;

To urge both the countries of the region and countries of other world regions, to sign, adhere to and/or ratify, as pertinent, the International Convention on the Protection of all Migrant Workers' and their Families' Rights, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children;

To submit the Declaration of Caracas to the Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in Brussels, Belgium, and in other international venues;

AND, ADDITIONALLY DECLARE, AT REGIONAL LEVEL:

To review and adjust the Action Plan on International Migrations in South America, adopted in Quito in 2002, and propose the implementation of follow-up mechanisms which make it possible for the plan to be fully operative in a technical meeting to be convened for this purpose;

To acknowledge and accept the offer of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to be the seat for the 8th South American Conference on Migrations to be held in 2008;

To welcome the incorporation of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) as Permanent Observer of the South American Conference of Migrations;  
To highlight once again the most valuable contribution of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as Technical Secretariat for the Conference.

To thank the People and Authorities of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela the hospitality offered to the attending Delegations and the outstanding organization of the 7th South American Conference on Migrations.

Republic of Argentina  
Republic of Bolivia  
Federative Republic of Brazil  
Republic of Chile  
Republic of Colombia  
Republic of Ecuador  
Republic of Paraguay  
Republic of Peru  
Republic of Suriname  
Eastern Republic of Uruguay  
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Caracas, July 3, 2007