XII SOUTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION

Santiago Declaration

“Migration Governance in South America: A Social, Economic and Cultural Rights Approach to Migrants and their Families.”
Santiago, November 4 through 6, 2012

In the city of Santiago, Chile, on November 4 through 6, 2012, the XII South American Conference on Migration (XII CSM) was held under the Pro-Tempore Chairmanship of Chile and the participation of delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as representatives from other International Agencies as observers, special invitees and representatives from the civil society. The Technical Secretariat dependent upon the International Organization for Migration (TS-IOM) also provided its cooperation.

The XII CSM was primarily focused on the analysis of International Migration Governance components in South America, from a comprehensive approach based on migration policies, regulations and institutional framework prevailing in each country within the South American region.

CSM reaffirmed that its principles and guidelines - as the ones contained in the South American Plan for Migration Human Development (PSDHM) – underlying its thematic agenda and management, are in full force.

In this respect, it also highlighted the fact that the expansion of political participation - as an expression of migrants’ human rights – is a key factor in the integration of migrants in host societies and the construction of a South American Citizenship.

It reaffirmed its capacity as a specialized South American discussion and political concert forum on international migration and underlined its role in making proposals for action to the benefit of migrants and their families.

THEMATIC ISSUE I: FOLLOW-UP OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN PLAN FOR MIGRATION HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (PSDHM) ON MIGRANT’S HUMAN RIGHTS

CSM underlined and undertook to foster:

(a) Programs on human rights responding to all the aspects involved in migration processes and also the social and economic rights of migrants;
(b) Initiatives to facilitate and promote access by migrants to health, education and housing;

(c) Institutional programs to protect and assist vulnerable migrants in their access to justice;

(d) Preparation of a report on the regulations prevailing in each CMS country as regards the exercise of political rights by migrants, for submission and discussion at the next Inter-Sessional Meeting hosted by TS-IOM;

(e) Socialization and education programs in human rights addressed to host communities, jointly with civil society organizations;

(f) Exchange of good practices on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and their Families, as well as the Palermo Protocols on the Smuggling of Migrants and Illicit Trafficking in Persons;

(g) A continuous training program for public servants in human rights, jointly with TS-IOM.

THEMATIC ISSUE II: MIGRATION AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESSES

CSM welcomes the reports presented by CAN Secretariat General and MERCOSUR Pro Tempore Chairmanship (Migration Specialized Forum – FEM), dependent upon the Brazilian delegation, on the progress made by both entities on migration issues and eventual convergence of processes, in order to delve into integration mechanisms.

XII CSM welcomes with interest and supports the proposals contained in the III Andean Migration Forum (Quito Declaration), held on October 4 and 5, 2012, annexed to this Declaration.

THEMATIC ISSUE III: STRENGTHENING OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

CSM will promote, inter alia, the following initiatives:

(a) An annual report on the current status of regulations and institutions linked with the formulation and implementation of the migration policy of each country, within the framework of actions associated to OSUMI. Said reports shall be sent to TS-IOM for systematization and subsequent analysis at intersessional meetings.

(b) With the support of TS-IOM, a package of horizontal cooperation alternatives CSM member countries may provide each other with which foresee several financing methods;

(c) A proposal by TS-IOM to develop joint actions aimed at connecting fellow nationals abroad within
member countries, so that efforts deployed and good practices are joined to the benefit of South American migrants.

(d) A regional proposal on support to consular management to protect migrant victims of gender violence and domestic abuse, based on the Chilean-Argentinean experience.

Additionally, XII CSM received the document entitled “Contributions by the International Seminar on Return Migration in Latin America”, an outcome of the event organized in Quito, Ecuador, on October 2 and 3, 2012, which is enclosed with this Declaration.

THEMATIC ISSUE IV: INTERNATIONAL PROJECTION OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN REGION

In respect of the forthcoming regional, interregional and global events, CMS has decided:

(a) II High-Level UN Dialogue on International Migration and Development (2013): to prepare a document embodying CMS position to bring discussion on international migration agenda back to the United Nations and advance towards an International Convention on Migration. The troika formed by Brazil, Chile and Colombia, led by PPT, with the support of TS-IOM, will circulate a working document for discussion at the next intersessional meeting.

(b) Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD): CSM has expressed its unease and disagreement with the inappropriate consideration given to the participation and proposals by its member countries at several GFMD meetings. The exclusion of contributions by CSM and its member countries from GFMD minutes has prevented South American contributions from becoming known by migration and development global fora. Accordingly, it is reaffirmed that this mechanism must be brought back to the United Nations, an adequate forum for political discussion to proceed to an International Convention on Migration.

(c) CELAC Migration Meeting: CSM welcomed the rapporteur’s report of CELAC First Migration Meeting held at Comayagua, Honduras, in August 2012, which is incorporated into this Declaration as an annex.

(d) CELAC-EU Dialogue on Migration: CSM values this process very highly and stresses the contribution made by the First CELAC-EU Compendium on Migration. CMS requests CELAC PPT to propose the Working Group based in Brussels to urgently discuss the Single Permit Directive and to reinstate the rights acquired by South American migrants on health and social security matters. In the CELAC-EU information preparation process on migration flows, CMS will incorporate the human rights approach.

(e) Synergy with the Regional Conference on Migration (CRM)-CSM: CMS appreciates the report by
TS-CRM on this consultation process. Additionally, it entrusts PPT-CSM’ Pro Tempore Chairmanship with coordinating the exchange of information on extracontinental migration flows, networks of illicit traffic in migrants and planning of initiatives with their countries of origin and transit. Finally, it appreciates the invitation extended to CMS’ Troika to attend the meeting on extracontinental migration scheduled for December 2012 in Panama City, Panama.

(f) Establishment of relationships between CSM and UNASUR: CMS acknowledges that human mobility freedom within the region is a fundamental element in the construction of a South American Citizenship. Consequently, it agreed to resolutely advance towards the determination of the better way to strengthen said relations.

In this regard, CMS takes note of the “Draft Decision for the Incorporation of CSM within UNASUR Structure and the Establishment of a Roadmap to Construct a South American Citizenship” submitted by UNASUR PPT (Peru).

CSM underlined its capacity as a consultative forum and emphasized the importance of keeping a close coordination with UNASUR PPT to better define the way to relate to each other.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS
Finally, CMS:

* Welcomes the holding in Lima, Peru, of the Global Meeting on Consultation Processes (May 22 and 23, 2013) and entrusts its PPT with the follow-up of this initiative in conjunction with the Host Country and the conveyance of the South American position on migration processes.

* Jointly with reaffirming the importance of participation by Civil Society Organizations, agreed that countries will foster a national forum for dialogue and circulate a report on the contributions made by the civil society in said area at every CSM meeting.

* Expressed its appreciation for the participation, submissions and interventions by invited countries (Canada, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and Panama), international agencies (IOM, ECLAC, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNESCO, CAN and SEGIB) and CRM’s Technical Secretariat, which enriched the discussion and highlighted convergence areas and potential scope of cooperation.

* Entrusted the PPT, with the cooperation of TS-IOM, with the preparation of Draft Regulations and/or Statute of the South American Conference on Migration, embodying the main objectives, programs, structure, proceedings and decision process, based on the Glossary of the Fifth CSM (2004).
Expressed its appreciation for the participation of IOM’s Senior Advisor for the Americas Ms. Ana Durán Salvatierra.

Welcomed and expressed its appreciation for the offer made by the Argentinean delegation to host in the city of Buenos Aires the VIII Intersessional CSM Meeting towards the end of 2013 first semester, in coordination with the troika and TS-IOM.

Welcomed the offer by the Government of Colombia to host CSM XIII Meeting during 2013 Second Semester.

CMS expresses its gratitude to the Chilean Government, in its capacity as Pro-Tempore Chairmanship and host country, for the hospitality offered and the excellent organization and conduction of XII CSM, as well as the preliminary and intersessional meetings held in August 2012, and the Technical Secretariat for the support lent in the preparation of both meetings.

SANTIAGO, CHILE, NOVEMBER 6, 2012