

SACM
XIII South American Conference on Migration
Cartagena, Colombia



XIII SOUTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION

Cartagena de Indias Declaration

“Migration regularization as a mechanism to ensure the full exercise of the rights of South American migrants and strengthen regional integration”

Cartagena de Indias, December 3, 4 and 5, 2013

The XIII South American Conference on Migration was held on December 3-5, 2013 in the city of Cartagena de Indias, with Colombia as President Pro Tempore and with participation of delegates from: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Suriname, and Uruguay as well as representatives from various international organizations and special guests, and with collaboration from the International Organization for Migration in its role as Technical Secretariat (TS-IOM).

Four central themes were discussed at the XIII SACM: Follow-up on the South American Plan of Human Development for Migration; Migration and Integration in South America; Strengthening International Migration Governance; and Impact of the South American Region.

The SACM reaffirmed the full validity of the South American Plan of Human Development for Migration and the Declaration of Principles and General Guidelines of the South American Conference on Migration, as well as the contents and principles of the Buenos Aires Declaration, especially in regard to human rights as a cross-cutting theme, non-discrimination and migrants at the centre as subjects of rights. In addition, regarding the topic of regularization the SACM emphasized the objective of achieving that no South American national has irregular status in the region, since an irregular migrant is an invisible migrant.

Furthermore, the SACM saluted and thanked the IOM Director General for his presence and for expressing that IOM will continue supporting this Regional Consultative Process (RCP), especially in regard to the development of effective public policy on international migration, promoting the free movement of persons, and advancing toward South American citizenship. Moreover, the SACM highlights the comments by the Director about the challenges relating to the reduction of the cost of sending remittances, facing migrant recruiting agencies, and designing and implementing information campaigns on the contribution of migrants.

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CENTRAL THEME I: FOLLOW-UP ON THE SOUTH AMERICAN PLAN OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FOR MIGRATION

Based on deliberations, the SACM committed to the following:

- To continue developing the project on capacity-building to promote and protect the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations in South America (PRODEHSA) developed by the Technical Secretariat, with support from Member States.
- To consider the experiences of Chile and Argentina relating to the design and implementation of the “Network for Consular Assistance to Migrant Victims of Gender-based and Domestic Violence” supported by IOM, with the aim of potentially replicating the initiative at a regional level.
- To incorporate an approach considering gender, people with different abilities, ethnic minorities, boys, girls and adolescents, senior citizens and others into migration policymaking and implementation.
- The SACM considered the document on “Political participation of migrants” developed by the TS-IOM, noting that this is an issue that is becoming increasingly relevant and visible. In this regard, the SACM renewed its commitment to promote efforts to expand political and electoral participation, as an expression of the human rights of migrants and as an element to facilitate the process of building South American citizenship and foster the integration of migrants into societies in countries of destination, as stated in the Declaration on Migration Principles and General Guidelines of the SACM (2010) and the Santiago Declaration (2012).

CENTRAL THEME II: MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

Under this theme, the SACM decided to charge the President Pro Tempore – together with the Troika – to formally inform the Council of UNASUR Delegates about its interest in interacting with this institution as an advisory body.

In addition, the SACM invited the President Pro Tempore of the Working Group for South American Citizenship of UNASUR to submit a report on advances in developing South American citizenship and on the draft document that contains the conceptual discussion of this topic, considering the dimension of migration. The report was presented by the delegation from Argentina.

CENTRAL THEME III: STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The SACM committed to promoting programmes to establish links with South American nationals living outside the region, considering that this line of work is a part of the institutionalization process of the SACM.

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In this regard, the SACM took ownership of a proposal by the President Pro Tempore to develop joint efforts oriented toward the establishment of links with South American nationals living abroad. In addition, the SACM asked the TS to provide assistance to governments that decide to implement related initiatives.

The SACM accepted the proposal for horizontal cooperation developed by the Technical Secretariat based on input from Member States. In this regard, the Technical Secretariat is asked to initiate actions, in consultation with Member States and in coordination with the President Pro Tempore. Furthermore, the SACM recognizes that consular cooperation, among others, is an instrument to promote regional integration.

The SACM reaffirmed the importance of consular cooperation. Within this framework, the SACM requested that the Technical Secretariat develop a South American consular directory to enable the establishment of a network for cooperation between consular agencies, with the aim of coordinating joint efforts.

The SACM reaffirmed its vision of international migration governance, as expressed in the Santiago Declaration of 2012. This concept replaces the concept of “migration management”.

CENTRAL THEME IV: INTERNATIONAL IMPACT OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN REGION

The SACM reiterated that the Buenos Aires Declaration (2013) should be a frame of reference for the interaction and positioning of the SACM at multilateral, regional and global forums on international migration.

The SACM learned about the report on implementation of the Ibero-American Migration Agency Network (RIAM) as a technical and operative body for coordination between migration agencies in involved countries, which is oriented toward sharing and potentiating successful experiences and coordinating efforts in order to ensure the protection of the rights of migrants and their families.

The SACM reaffirms its will to participate and collaborate in the development of the III Meeting on Migration of CELAC, to be held in Ecuador in September 2014. In addition, the SACM reiterates its support of the positions of CELAC countries in the EU-CELAC Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration.

The SACM asked the Technical Secretariat to develop an institutional map of the competencies and mandates of international organizations involved in migration matters, especially the agencies of the United Nations System.

The SACM reiterated and called for the ratification of and full compliance with the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, as the primary binding mechanism that addresses migration, and charged the Technical Secretariat with the task of preparing a report – with support from the Troika – on compliance with the Convention.

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Operation and Structure of the SACM

The SACM accepted the proposal by the President Pro Tempore and the Technical Secretariat on the operation, institutionalization and structure of the SACM, which has become the operative basis for the SACM.

The SACM took ownership of the proposal by the President Pro Tempore on participation and coordination with civil society in the institutional development of the SACM, incorporating input from delegates of Member States.

In developing the statements from the Santiago Declaration (2012) on the importance of promoting a space for dialogue between the SACM and civil society based on existing national spheres, the SACM agreed to use the proposal submitted by the President Pro Tempore as a starting point to move forward with this matter. In addition, the SACM agreed to complement the proposal, to be discussed in detail at the IX Intersessional Meeting.

Migration Regularization

The SACM highlighted the importance of regularization processes as a part of its constitutive objectives, including the Residence Agreement of MERCOSUR and its partners, as an essential step in the process of building South American citizenship.

The SACM asked the Technical Secretariat to develop conduct a study on experiences relating to implementation of the Residence Agreement of MERCOSUR and its partners – and particularly in regard to the requirement of submitting criminal, judicial or police records and medical certificates – with the objective of facilitating the right to free movement and South American citizenship. The first report on the study will be submitted at the IX Intersessional Meeting.

The SACM urges Member States to implement information dissemination and awareness-raising efforts about the benefits of regularization processes.

The SACM expressed its recognition of the Republic of Ecuador for the approval by the National Assembly of the Residence Agreement of MERCOSUR and its partners.

Specific Migration Situations

The SACM, in view of the characteristics of the new immigration flows of Haitian nationals in the South American region, entrusts the Troika with the task of ensuring continuous actions and coordination between Member States in regard to preventing the smuggling of Haitian migrants, providing protection and humanitarian aid to these migrants and combating networks smuggling Haitian migrants.

The SACM thanks the Government of Nicaragua – as a guest country and in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) – and international

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organizations IOM, CAN, ECLAC, and UNHCR as well as the Technical Secretariat of RCM for their participation, presentations and interventions, which enriched the discussions highlighting potential spheres of cooperation.

The SACM welcomes the offer by the Government of Peru to host the XIV SACM, to be held in the September 2014, as well as the offer by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to host the IX Intersessional Meeting of the SACM.

The SACM thanks the illustrious city of Cartagena de Indias for its welcome.

The SACM expresses its recognition of the Government of Colombia, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore and host country, for the hospitality and the excellent organization and implementation of the XIII SACM. In addition, the SACM thanks the Technical Secretariat for its support in preparing and holding this meeting.

Cartagena de Indias, December 5, 2013

On behalf of the Republic of Argentina

On behalf of the Federative Republic of Brazil

On behalf of the Republic of Colombia

On behalf of the Republic of Chile

On behalf of the Republic of Ecuador

On behalf of the Republic of Suriname

On behalf of the Republic of Peru

On behalf of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay

On behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

On behalf of the Government of Paraguay

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