

Report on the regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean



Global Compact
FOR **Migration**



United Nations
Network on Migration

Working Better Together

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Acronyms



ALADI	Latin American Integration Association
ALAP	Latin American Population Association
ALBA	Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America
CAN	Andean Community
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CELADE	Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center
CIEMG	Inter-Parliamentary Special Commission on Migration (of FOPREL)
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FOPREL	Forum of Presidents of the Legislative Branches of Central America and the Caribbean Basin
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual and Intersex, Queer and Others (+)
MERCOSUR	Common Market of the South
MMPTF	Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund
OAS	Organization of American States
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization
PARLACEN	Central American Parliament
PDI	Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeastern Mexico
PRIMI	Regional Migration Information Platform
RCM	Regional Conference on Migration
RIAM	Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities
SACM	South American Conference on Migration
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SELA	Latin American and Caribbean Economic System
SICA	Central American Integration System



SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN Women	United Nations Organization for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Program

Foreword



In the context of the structural inequalities characterising it, the Latin America and the Caribbean region faces a period of economic, social and political difficulties aggravated by the COVID 19 pandemic. In addition, the impacts of disasters, environmental degradation and the effects of climate change further complicate the situation in the different subregions. In this context, and with limited possibilities for regular migration, current regional migration processes unfold with increasing complexity and flows of various types –among them, mixed. For many of their protagonists, movements are not an option but an obligation. Even though a part of these processes takes place in adverse conditions, millions of migrants make significant contributions in various fields, to their societies of origin and destination.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is the first multilateral global framework developed under the auspices of the United Nations to improve international cooperation in all dimensions of migration. It has a global and comprehensive perspective putting migrants at the core and focusing on challenges, opportunities, good practices and what needs to be done. It is also a unique opportunity to coordinate actions at the regional, national and local levels engaging different social stakeholders.

Migration is safe, orderly and regular when it abides by the laws and regulations governing the exit from, entry into, return to, and stay in States, complies with the obligations of States under international law to safeguard the human dignity and wellbeing of migrants to protect and respect their rights, and recognises and mitigates the risks associated with human movements.

In this sense, the Global Compact is an instrument that fosters better conditions for migration governance. Anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Compact contributes to its fulfilment and benefits from its advancement. The GCM contributes to diversity and sustainable development.

It also represents a unique opportunity to organise and channel a global, inter-agency and inclusive response, covering all the dimensions of migration and all the entities engaged in it, including those at the local, national and regional levels.

The United Nations system is committed to supporting the implementation of the Global Compact through the creation of the United Nations (UN) Network on Migration—a collaborative community of United Nations entities providing effective and coordinated support to Member States and other stakeholders in the implementation of the GCM. Addressing all the dimensions of migration in an effective and consistent manner requires close collaboration from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. Together they have the opportunity to make a real difference.

In Resolution 73/195 on the Global Compact, and considering that most international migration takes place within regions, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has asked to review the progress on the implementation of the GCM at the regional level with the engagement of all relevant stakeholders. In Resolution 73/326 the UNGA has also requested the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, to assist, upon request by Member States, in the preparation and organisation of these regional reviews. Thus, with the objective of identifying the progress made on the implementation of the GCM in the face of the International Migration Review Forum scheduled to take place in May 2022, IOM, as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, and ECLAC, working closely with the members of the Regional UN Network on Migration, co-organised the Global Compact on Migration Regional Review meeting in Latin America and the Caribbean in April 2021. This report covers the outcomes obtained from this review process.

In the context of such a process the importance of effective participation by various relevant stakeholders in the Global Compact was emphasised so as to ensure a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach based on four principles: transparency, inclusiveness, diversity and meaningful participation. To facilitate the participation of civil society and other stakeholders, an ad hoc working group has been created.

The first Regional Review, whose outcomes are accounted for in this report, was a first step towards the fulfilment of the Global Compact and a cornerstone for the first International Migration Review Forum. The main objectives of the Review were: sharing information on progress, challenges and opportunities; making recommendations for enhanced GCM implementation; and preparing this summary of outcomes to be submitted to the the global review meeting.

One of the greatest challenges of the Review was to secure broad participation in the process involving various stakeholders. By means of national reports and the statements made in the review meeting, the governments reaffirmed their commitment to the objectives and guiding principles of the GCM. The same applied to the contributions of organisations, networks and platforms, and regional and subregional processes in the region.

Civil society organisations and other stakeholders reiterated their willingness to uphold the crucial role they have traditionally played regarding migration in the region: Promoting the dialogue with States and channelling the social demands of migrant communities; providing assistance and protection; monitoring and advocating for the respect for the human rights of migrants; and engaging in governance from a human rights-based approach.

With the political will and readiness by States and other relevant stakeholders, accomplishment of GCM objectives will continue, particularly the priorities reiterated by many stakeholders in the Regional Review process, among which the following stand out: Migration regularisation as a critical point for migration governance; elimination of administrative detention including the prohibition of detention of children, adolescents and families; access to justice; capacity building at the borders; protection of migrants in situations of vulnerability at every stage of the migration cycle; creation of solid partnerships for migration

governance (among governments and with other relevant stakeholders); prevention of and fight against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants; need for evidence to design public policies and to fight against xenophobia; development of strategies to add value to the concrete contributions of migrants to sustainable development; addressing the nexus among migration, environment, climate change, and disaster-related human mobility; and the need to monitor the progress on the implementation of the Compact.

In addition, the Regional Review highlighted the need to promote and protect the human rights of all migrants on the basis of the principle of equality and non-discrimination so as to preserve their integrity, dignity and well-being. Furthermore, with a view to providing effective protection and assistance, responses must be oriented in a differentiated and individualised manner when groups or people in a potential situation of vulnerability are identified due to the convergence of risk factors at an individual, household, community and structural level, as in the case of:

- Migrant women: recognising the intersectionality of risk factors that may contribute to creating a situation of vulnerability on the grounds of gender inequality or gender-based violence, for instance.
- Children and adolescents: their protection must be in keeping with their best interest and their recognition as subjects.
- Populations with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics: promoting the principle of non-discrimination and differentiated protection.

The challenges and recommendations arising from the review were many and, in this report, a large proportion of them are related. They address a wide array of actions making it possible to improve and refine the public policies implemented in the region, as well as regulatory frameworks, and will give substance to the dialogue in favour of migration governance in the region.



Furthermore, the Regional Review process facilitated communication channels among various stakeholders of the Global Compact, particularly between the United Nations and civil society. The challenge of maintaining and strengthening them, in addition to continuing working with civil society and other relevant stakeholders, needs to be taken on so as to build more solid migration governance in the region. In this regard, migrants must be engaged in the post COVID 19 recovery process; this presents an opportunity for the construction of such governance as long as it includes: the fight against racism, discrimination and xenophobia; the advancement towards increased equality; the respect for, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants; sustainable development and climate action, among others. To achieve all the foregoing, the GCM is a key road map.

In addition to States —their institutions at every level and the various forums that gather them and where they interact with one another—,civil society, organisations of workers and employers, parliamentarians, academia, national human rights institutions, the media and other stakeholders are key partners in the implementation of the Global Compact. This is a potential that requires increasingly efficient joint efforts, the mobilisation of migration for sustainable development, the protection and assistance of migrants in situations of vulnerability, and the

guarantee that no one will be left behind.

The UN Networks on Migration, at a global, regional and national level, are key stakeholders to deepen the work for the implementation of the Compact at the country level, to provide support to Member States and to contribute to the coordination with other social stakeholders, reaching relevant spaces in the region engaged in the dialogue on migration policies, such as regional consultative processes, as well as broad governance processes in this field.

For our part, we reaffirm the commitment of IOM, as the United Nations migration agency and Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, and of ECLAC-CELADE to contribute to the implementation of the Global Compact. As part of the regional UN Network on Migration and on behalf of the other agencies, funds and programmes that are part of it in the region, we commit to working jointly, involving as well: FAO, ILO, OCHA, OHCHR, PAHO/WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Women, and WFP. We are certain that the joint action of all stakeholders, whose willingness and initiatives are summarised in this report, and the leadership of champion countries, will determine the right direction in the pursuit of the objectives of the Global Compact for which we reiterate our support.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre, Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CELADE-ECLAC)

Executive Summary



In the last years, in Latin America and the Caribbean, intra-regional migration has become a daily reality due to several factors. At the same time, its complexity has increased. Since the beginning of the century, intra-regional migration has grown at five-year rates higher than extra-regional migration. This trend has been especially notable during the last ten years and, in particular, in the past five-year period. The population from the region that, in 2020, lived in a country that was not theirs reached nearly 43 million with most of them (25.5 million, i.e., 59.5%) living in North America (the United States of America and Canada). As regards immigrants in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020, their figures accounted for around 15 million –78.4% from the same region.

The review process took place by means of five thematic areas, yielding the findings summarised below:

Thematic area 1: Promoting a discourse, policies and planning on migration based on facts and data

Progress was made on the production of national and regional migration information.

A clear interest in the contents of this thematic area was recognised as it was underscored that cooperation and partnerships are fundamental issues for human mobility. Multilateral collaboration plays an important role in the management of knowledge and, through shared experiences, supports national stakeholders to move towards comprehensive information systems.

In this context, the regional review identified the need for more disaggregated information on labour, discrimination, children, adolescents, and less-studied population groups. However, more data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, and

other variables are needed, which allow for an improved understanding of migrants living conditions and how migration has impacted health, income, education and other areas. The need for sources that enhance the work to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling was also stressed. In addition, participants noted the limited production of information materials to promote the contributions of migration to sustainable development.

Some countries also pointed out the need to enable an environment that fosters extensive and continuous migration policy-relevant research; the development of robust national statistical systems on migration and development; and of platforms that facilitate data sharing at national and regional levels.

In this regard, it is important to consistently follow up, at a national level, the available information for devising public policies and programmes based on evidence. Meanwhile, at a regional level, the challenge lies in the creation of a standardised system for the production of timely, accurate and complete information with a rights-based approach.

Working at the international level can help achieve internal coherence and increased and enhanced dialogue with other countries. Technical and financial cooperation and international support are also very important not only for information management, but also for joint advocacies on sensitive and controversial issues.

Thematic area 2: Protecting the human rights, safety and well-being of migrants, including through addressing drivers and mitigating situations of vulnerability in migration

In terms of adverse environmental and climate drivers of migration, greater integration of policies and the development of concrete actions based on commitments and global guidelines, such as the Compact itself, combined with disaster risk reduction and management policies, continue to be necessary.

Working on migration regularisation in a coordinated manner was recognised as a priority strategy to foster the access to rights and the prevention of vulnerability situations associated with irregular migration. The States have moved forward in that direction, but with varying degrees of development, even at the multilateral level.

Participants acknowledged the increase in abuse, violence, exploitation and even deaths and disappearances of migrants during migration journeys as a critical problem, on par with heightened situations of vulnerability and abuse as well as discrimination and xenophobia against migrants. This has also worsened the intersectional vulnerability experienced by children and adolescents, indigenous populations and other migrant groups with poor visibility (LGTBIQ+, among others). Other incidents causing concern by numerous stakeholders include arbitrary detentions, collective expulsions and criminalisation of migration, among other practices.

Addressing the adverse drivers and structural causes compelling a person to migrate is critical. In addition, participants acknowledged the importance of preventing contextual situations from blocking or hindering further progress on acquired rights and called to effectively mainstream gender and practice child-sensitive approaches as enshrined in the Global Compact.

Migration processes have structural, i.e., social, economic, and environmental determining factors rooted in inequalities and the lack of opportunities for most migrants. When combined with contextual factors, such as the pandemic of COVID-19, migrants should be treated under non-discriminatory regimes ensuring their protection regardless of their migration status.

Thematic area 3: Addressing irregular migration, including through managing borders and combatting transnational crime

The round tables and thematic area addressed crucial issues illustrating the need for multilateral cooperation and engagement of multiple stakeholders. The case of border management and fight against trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling was raised, as well as the due protection of rights among those who may be subjected to returns.

At present, States are implementing technological - and other types of - solutions as a result of their investment in border management in connection with the fight against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Likewise, consulates have shown an increasing technological modernization.

Nevertheless, migration flows are ever more complex and are increasingly taking place in situations of high vulnerability. New criminal modalities of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants have been identified. The closure of borders linked to the pandemic of COVID-19 has worsened the situation leading migrants to use dangerous routes. Participants highlighted the lack of access to justice by migrants with an irregular status and the constraints of consular networks to assist them as a critical issue.

In this context, it is a priority to facilitate and balance public order, safety and security whilst promoting regular migration that deters all types of human trafficking and migrant smuggling and exploitation. It is also necessary to make routes safer and ensure access to justice, regardless of a person's migratory status. Border management with



a rights-based approach, capacity strengthening consular representations, and coordination among countries are also priorities, mainly to effectively implement strategies to prevent trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (in connection with data, awareness-raising strategies, training at borders, inter-jurisdictional protocols, among others).

Thematic area 4: Facilitating regular migration and decent work, and enhancing the positive development effects of human mobility

During the regional review, participants identified regional agreements and diverse regularisation strategies at the national and international levels. These are initiatives and programmes that help enable decent work and that are fundamental on the path towards socioeconomic integration. Progress, although uneven, was reported on specific policies for labour inclusion and access to rights.

Nevertheless, access to decent work is complex for migrants, who, in addition to informality, are affected by the sexual division of labour, which drives women to the care economy and domestic service work, and thus to precarious working conditions.

In this scenario, it is a priority to improve labour migration governance by addressing it from a human rights-based approach. This reaffirms the importance of promoting decent work and combating all forms of child and forced labour. It also promotes a participatory perspective that gathers all relevant stakeholders (the State, the private sector, migrants, trade unions, among others) to design inclusive employability policies and programmes placing value on the contributions of migrant communities to sustainable development.

As with thematic area 1, data can showcase the contributions that migrants make to countries of origin, transit and destination, which are enhanced through regular migration and fair and ethical labour conditions. These include contributions to expand internal markets; the creation of new jobs; migrants' role as taxpayers;

rejuvenation of the workforce; and contributions to social security systems. It is also of utmost importance to identify the qualitative contributions of migration that relate, for example, to cultural exchanges, diversity practices and habits, new labor skills and comprehensive education.

International cooperation on this matter will also be important (regional social security systems, validation of degrees, development programmes, financial policies for remittances, among others).

Thematic area 5: Improving the social inclusion and integration of migrants

Participants identified progress not only on bilateral and regional frameworks for public governance, but also on specific documentation related policies as a strategy to ensure access to rights and policies for labour inclusion. However, permanent regularisation, an inexorable requirement for inclusion, remains a challenge.

It is a priority to assess integration practices developed in several countries and, if necessary, to adapt them to the circumstances and implement them, with the commitment of subnational and, in particular, local authorities. Public policies should incorporate such practices and include host communities. This allows the latter to understand the benefits for all, thus preventing the emergence of xenophobic feelings. To do so, vertical and horizontal engagements should be promoted, thereby facilitating agility in local actions and service delivery geared towards migrant integration.

There is an overall need for partnerships with the civil society and cooperating institutions; the former would also contribute to the fight against xenophobia. The private sector, for its part, cannot be excluded from labour integration policies.

The greatest expectations of international cooperation, as mentioned, would lie in the financial support, while, in terms of the relationship with other countries, the interest would focus on institutional coordination actions. The



private sector expressed the convenience of creating focal points of inter-institutional connection, which are known as public-private partnerships.

Finally, it is a priority to effectively mainstream gender into policies.

Integrating the vision and guiding principles in the implementation of the GCM from the perspective of States

The Global Compact is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles: people-centredness; international cooperation; national sovereignty; rule of law and due process; sustainable development; human rights; gender perspective; child-sensitive approach; whole-of-government approach; and whole-of-society approach.

In the review process, governments and other stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment and compliance with the cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles set forth for the implementation of the GCM. This commitment can be explained, in part, because the GCM is rooted in historical agreements and principles that stem from a tradition, sometimes turned into an obligation, of modern States. Each country should assess the coherence between the formal acceptance of the discourse based on those principles and its practical implementation, especially in those cases where reports suggest some shortfalls.

Conclusions

Governments and other stakeholders reaffirmed the Global Compact as a highly relevant framework and expressed their political will to promote international cooperation to advance its implementation. Consensus in this regard was not affected by some political differences among countries.

The COVID 19 pandemic, which altered plans and agendas and contributed to the deterioration of the situation of migrants and their communities, in addition to

the short time elapsed since the adoption of the GCM, has hindered GCM implementation. However, from a regional perspective, it is worth mentioning that countries report progress linked to certain GCM objectives, although with varying levels of advancement.

In general, participants acknowledged the progress made on the regional migration architecture of the United Nations system through the Regional UN Network on Migration, co-led by IOM and ECLAC. This, along with networks at the national and global levels, is an important asset to continue with GCM implementation, follow up and review, based on the Regional UN Network's leadership and corresponding responsibilities.



Introduction



On December 19, 2018, by means of Resolution 73/195 of the United Nations General Assembly, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was adopted. It is a non-legally binding cooperative framework that recognizes that no State can address migration on its own because of its inherently transnational nature.

The same Resolution established that, under the guidance of the States, the progress made at every level on the implementation of the Compact should be periodically reviewed. To this end, it was defined that, every fourth session of the General Assembly, the International Migration Review Forum would take place, as the primary intergovernmental global platform to discuss and share such progress, to facilitate interaction among various stakeholders and to identify opportunities to enhance cooperation. Likewise, subregional, regional and cross-regional discussions about the GCM progress were scheduled every four years, beginning in 2020, to prepare contributions to the Review Forum, whose first edition will take place in 2022.

This document is a contribution from the Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean to the process for the review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), conducted between late 2020 and April 2021, according to the guidelines of the concept note dated May 2020, drafted by the UN Network on Migration, the IOM and ECLAC (see Annex 1).

In the region, the review was scheduled for November 2020. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as Coordinator of the

UN Network on Migration, submitted to the Member States a questionnaire to prepare a regional report as the basis for such meeting, and published another one, with the same aim, addressed to subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organisations, and to relevant stakeholders acting at the regional level. Given that, for reasons related to the COVID 19 pandemic, such meeting could not be held, it was rescheduled for April 26-28, 2021, preceded by two consultations: one with regional platforms and processes, held on April 12, and another one with the civil society and other relevant stakeholders, held on April 13-15.

The answers to the timely received questionnaires were consolidated and processed, and resulted in the preliminary report submitted to the countries before their meeting in late April. Likewise, the information from the two aforementioned consultations and meeting was processed. This data set, in addition to other complementary data, necessary to build a framework, is the one that underpins this report.

Four input sets, available on the website of the [United Nations Network on Migration](#), were mainly used, namely:

1. Voluntary reports submitted by 17 countries, 6 intergovernmental bodies and regional or subregional official platforms, 14 civil society organisations, and other 2 relevant stakeholders (see Annex 2, table 1), and the preliminary report drafted on the basis of those questionnaires available upon the Regional Review meeting.
2. Statements made in the consultation with the regional platforms and processes, held on April 12, 2021.

¹ https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/resources_files/preliminary_report_of_the_rr_of_the_gcm_in_lac_-_april_2021.pdf

3. Statements made in the consultation with the civil society and other relevant stakeholders, held from April 13 to 15, 2021.
 4. Statements at the Regional Review meeting, held from April 26 to 28, 2021, in which 936 people, from 50 countries, 18 agencies from the United Nations system, and 11 intergovernmental bodies and cooperation and development agencies participated (see Annex 2, tables 2, 3 and 4).
- This report presents a regional vision of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, with its background, key figures of the migrant population, guiding principles, conclusions and recommendations, as a framework of a core or set of findings that make up the regional diagnosis of the Compact with three components with a fairly strong presence in the data analysed:
 - Progress and positive circumstances for its continuity.
 - Critical situations.
 - Challenges and opportunities posed by such situations, according to the proposals expressed in the process.

In addition, this report includes some good practices.

Regarding said diagnosis, it is insisted on fact that these are regional findings, for Latin America and the Caribbean, of issues posed in the review process, expressed by highly diverse stakeholders.

The foregoing accounts for the differences in the volume of the notes in the five thematic areas and among the three components of each one of them. The extent and number of issues considered in the items correspond to what was mentioned in the review process. That which was written or talked about is expected to reflect the main interests of the stakeholders participating in the review. Certain lacks in connection with some of the objectives of the Compact can also be noted —lacks that are also meaningful.

It is noted that, in spite of the short period reviewed (less than two years, half of them with a pandemic), there is willingness in the region to meet the objectives of the Compact, which is reflected, first, on modifications of regulations, temporary regularisation processes and other specific actions. In addition, and perhaps more importantly, there are ongoing collective actions which are multilaterally promoted, with regional or subregional stakeholders of various types, and which will eventually impact the countries. Even though a large part of what has been reported corresponds more to the continuity of processes that were underway upon the adoption of the GCM, it is in keeping with its objectives. What is relevant of the case is that, given the declarations of commitment to the Compact by the countries, made throughout the process, such continuity was invigorated by the will to realise it. This first review can be considered as a baseline reference for the joint planning of new actions required to further the fulfilment of the GCM.



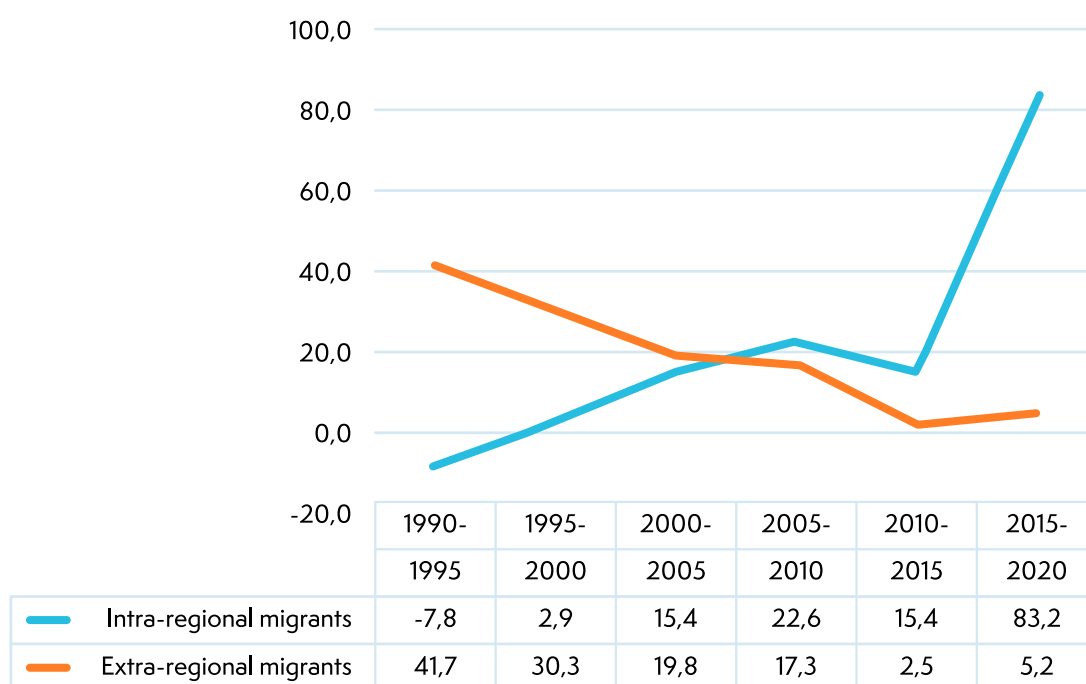
1. Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean



In the last years, in Latin America and the Caribbean, intra-regional migration movements have consolidated as a daily reality due to several factors. At the same time, there is an increasing objective complexity. Graph 1 shows that, since the beginning of the century, the populations resulting from such movements have grown at five-year rates higher than those derived from extra-regional movements. This has been especially notable during the last ten years and, in particular, in the last five-year period, when the population emigrating within the same region nearly doubled, while

that which is outside barely increased by 5%. It should be considered that the proportional increases of both processes (intra- and extra-regional migrations) had very different starting points, which is why the greater increase in migration within the region cannot significantly change the weight of the emigrant stocks outside it, as shown on graphs 2 and 3.

Graph 1. Inter-quinquennial percentage variation of migrant populations from the region, by settlement inside or outside it, 1990-2020.



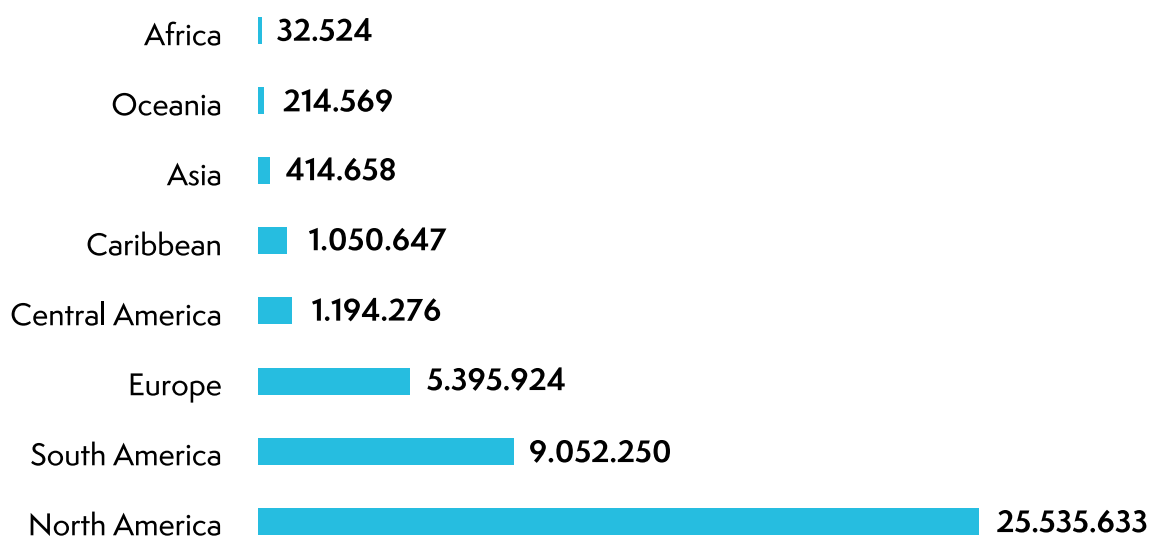
Source: prepared based on data from UNDESA, 2020.

1. Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean

As a result of these migration processes, opportunities arise for migrants themselves, their families and countries of origin. Such consequences also impact the communities and countries of transit and destination, which have the possibility to benefit from knowledge, capacities, willingness to work, among many other features entailed by migration and the diversity that it contributes. Nevertheless, when migration processes take place in irregular conditions, they expose their protagonists to risks of all kinds and render them especially vulnerable during the movement and stay in the places of transit and destination.

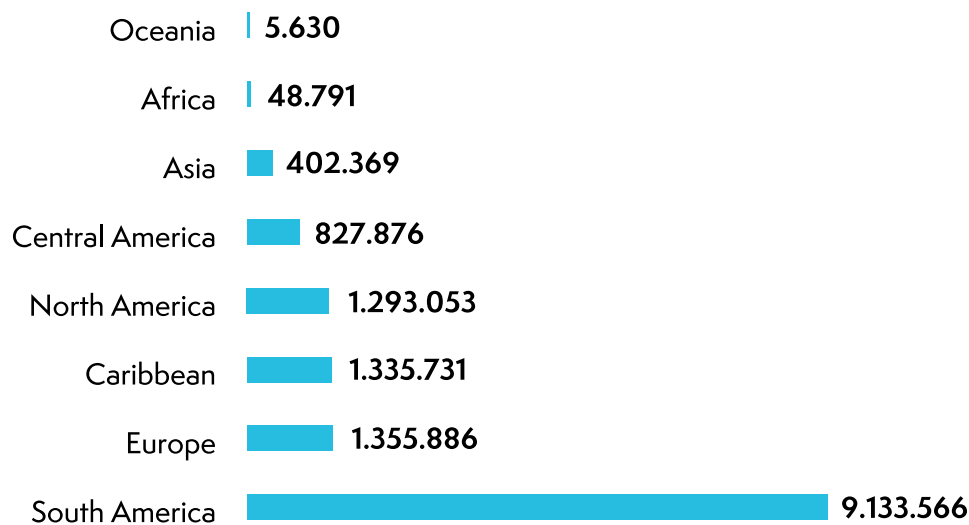
The population from the region that, in 2020, lived in a country other than theirs (see graph 2) amounted to nearly 43 million and most of them (25.5 million, i.e., 59.5%) were living in North America (the United States of America and Canada). In territories from the same region, there were 11.3 million, i.e., 26.3%, mainly in South America. As regards the 654 million inhabitants estimated for the region in 2020 (UNDESA, 2019), the emigrant population accounts for 6.6%.

Graph 2. International emigrants from the region, by destination, 2020.



Source: prepared based on data from UNDESA (2020)

Graph 3. International immigrants within the region, by origin, 2020.



Source: prepared based on data from UNDESA (2020)

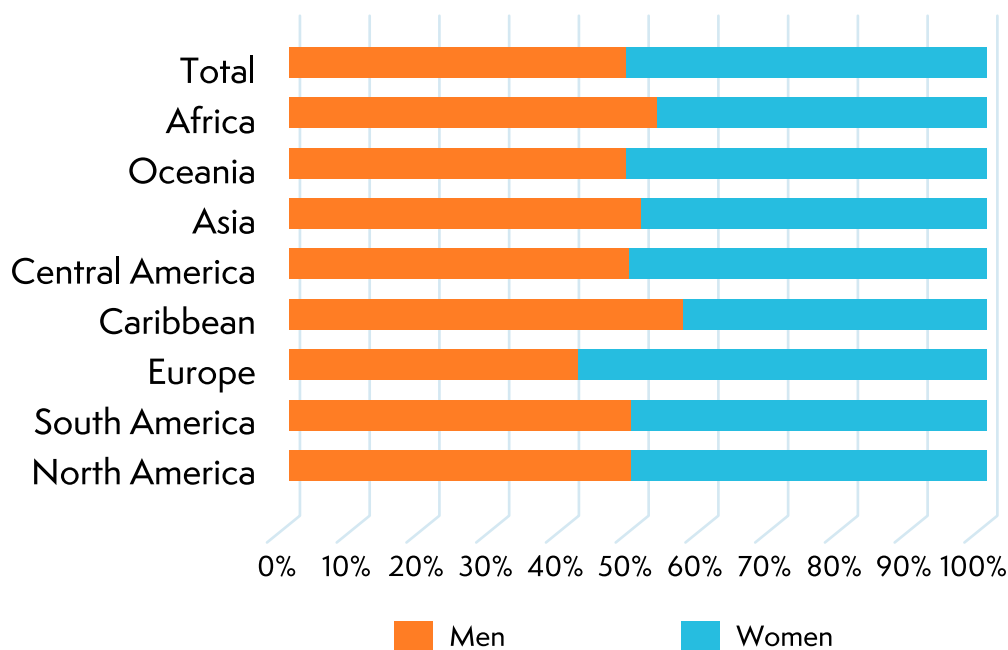
When focusing on immigrants (see graph 3), it is found that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2020, they amounted to nearly 15 million. Of those people, 78.5% were from the same region. Of those who arrived from other regions, the ones coming from Europe and North America stand out, with similar figures.

Graphs 4 and 5 account for the sex distribution of the aforementioned migrant populations. In the total emigrant

population (graph 4), there is a clear predominance of women, with a ratio of 93.3 men every 100 women. The most remarkable situation is found in Europe, where the ratio is barely 71.1 men every 100 women. In geographical areas with a male predominance, the greatest difference is found in the Caribbean, where there are 129.3 male immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean every 100 women from the same place of origin.

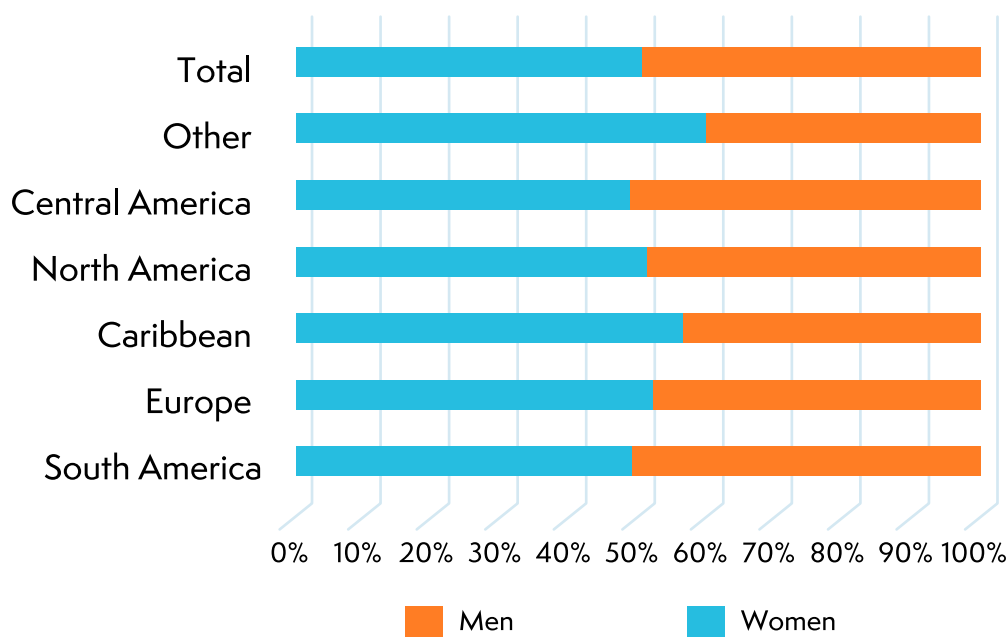


Graph 4. International emigrants from the region, by sex, according to destination, 2020



Source: prepared based on data from UNDESA (2020).

Graph 5. International migrants within the region, by sex, according to origin, 2020



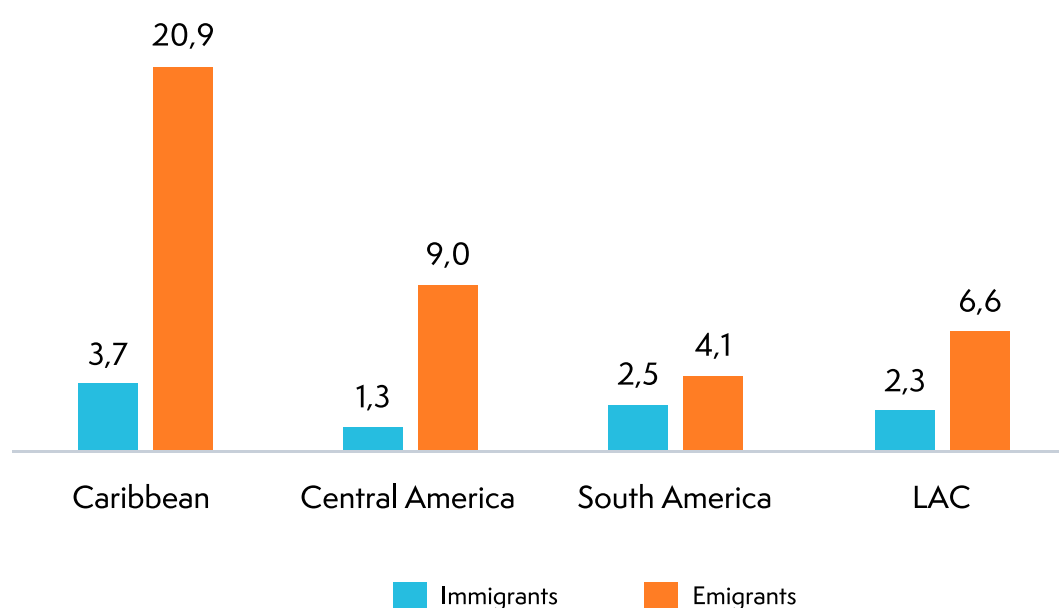
Source: prepared based on data from UNDESA (2020).

1. Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean

Graph 6 shows that the two subregions with absolute figures of migrants within the region (immigrants) and emigrants are precisely those where both facts have the greatest relative weight with respect to their inhabitants. Taking the case of the Caribbean, with the highest figures, it is remarkable that emigrants from its territories (regardless

of their location) equal nearly 21% of its population and immigrants within its territories approach 4%. These relative differences, which, in the case of some Caribbean territories are even more significant, have large-scale implications, of various types, in the subregion and in many aspects related to the GCM objectives².

Graph 6. Percentage share of immigrants and emigrants, with respect to the population, by subregions, 2020.



Source: prepared based on data from UNDESA (2019 and 2020).

² For further details on the complex migration situation of the region, refer to issues 123, 124 and 125 of the series Population and Development of ECLAC, prepared and published within the framework of the regional preparation for the GCM. They correspond to the panoramas of international migration in, respectively: the Caribbean (Mejía, 2018), South America (Stefoni, 2018), and Mexico and Central America (Canales and Rojas, 2018). In addition, there is a section on the region (pages 101 to 113) in the World Migration Report 2020 (IOM, 2019).

2. Main findings, by thematic areas



The United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (MMPTF), a basic element of the capacity-building mechanism of the UN Network on Migration, groups the 23 objectives of the Global Compact in five thematic areas to facilitate adherence to the 360 degree vision of the Global Compact (see Annex 1).

This grouping determined the entire review process, from its inclusion in the forms serving as a basis for the voluntary reports of each sector to the assignment of one thematic area to each round table, both in the civil society meeting and the Regional Review meeting, focused on the official delegations of the countries, but open to all stakeholders.

While the voluntary reports and statements made by delegates represented the institutional stances of countries, platforms, processes and organisations, the conclusions from the round tables showed consensual visions and proposals.

In such conditions, by taking as sources of information the four input sets related in the introduction, without exploring their differences, three trends are found:

- The one that reflects the country reports, expressed on the voluntary forms and the speeches of the national official delegates at the final meeting, which highlight, from the State's perspective, the achievements and needs of each country and their engagement with collective governmental stakeholders, including bilateral agreements in which they participate, as well as with cooperation entities —mainly international ones.

- At the other end, the written reports and statements by representatives of the civil society highlight the gaps in the understanding and the fulfilment of the Compact objectives, and the contributions of those organisations in the same lines.
- In the middle of the two preceding trends, which, in essence, describe the progress made and what is pending or has not been implemented yet, is the proactive work with a view to keeping on track to fulfil the objectives of the compact, by collective stakeholders, including platforms, networks and other stakeholders, and, mainly, the work done at the round tables in the civil society and country meetings.

Based on the foregoing and for the purposes of highlighting as many contributions from the process as possible, the findings for each thematic area are summarised, presented in three sections roughly reflecting the aforementioned trends: progress and potentialities, outstanding issues and challenges or proposals.

In general, situations are highly heterogeneous with regard to reviewing conditions, interests and possibilities. Nevertheless, within the diversity noticed, more than one issue can correspond to national circumstances and may shed light on the road to take in pursuit of the objectives of the compact.

Due to the nature of the issues or to the interests of the people and institutions participating in the processes, there were, throughout the five thematic areas, certain reiterations that, in general, were respected in the preparation of this report.



2.1 Thematic area 1: Promoting a migration discourse, policies and planning based on facts and data.



This area refers to the following objectives of the GCM:

- 1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.
- 3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration.
- 17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.
- 23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

2.1.1 Progress and potentialities

As regards migration information production, the following positive events were identified:

- Important experiences contributing useful information, as well as efforts to keep moving forward regarding various aspects of data collection, processing and analysis.
- In many countries, information about entries and exits, visa issuance and renewal, residence and

work permits is collected and processed, as well as other administrative records directly associated with migration movements. This tends to be linked to technological investments, human talent development, and other actions aimed at improving the quality and timeliness of processes.

- In some cases, there have been attempts, by national institutions of different types, to turn such administrative records into anonymised statistical data of persons, for the purposes of obtaining useful databases for migration studies that can be shared with other users.
- There are some possibilities to use—for the purposes of collecting migration information—regular household surveys; there also are other ad hoc surveys, sometimes conducted with the participation of the academia or civil society organisations.
- Existence of a working group on migration statistics, with the participation of officials from national statistical institutes from several countries, which already has a ‘pre-diagnosis’.
- At the country level, existence and creation of inter-institutional groups on migration statistics.
- In central statistical and planning and development bodies, important papers that have not been

2. Main findings, by thematic areas

publicised. Among them, there is progress on the management of administrative records of different types (health, labour, among others) as a source of migration information.

- In some countries in the region, there are information subsystems that are dedicated to migration affairs and have been duly incorporated into the national social information systems.
- In terms of promoting an evidence-based public discourse to shape the perceptions about migration, there have been significant efforts that IOM and respective governments have collaborated on with the aim of strengthening the journalistic coverage of migration so as to contribute to the good management of migration-related information and, thus, debunk myths and prevent xenophobia. Some of these good practices relate to training sessions for journalists all over South America, as well as the initiative of the South American Migration Journalism Award. In Central, North America and the Caribbean IOM developed a series of specialized courses on migration for journalists and promotes its #XenophobiaZero

initiative to strengthen the voices of multiple civil society actors and the capacities of governments to fight discrimination against migrants. These initiatives are inspired by the Global Compact for Migration, especially its Objective 17, and the 2030 Agenda and its link to sustainable development.

- The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) showed its newly established Migration Unit and presented several studies focused on Colombia and Ecuador, which highlighted the possibility to use non-conventional sources of information to estimate the volume of the Venezuelan population, as well as its distribution in the territory and access to public services (see box 1). This may serve as an example for future innovative activities on migration data in the region.

Textbox 1. IDB proposal

The private sector and civil society now have two powerful tools: the use of technology and partnership building. Managing data, on the one hand, makes it possible to have reliable, updated and immediate sources to know the profile of migrants and thus offer better opportunities to them. In turn, it helps them to access jobs, information, products or services. Technology, in addition, facilitates distance training alternatives and job offers in new industries that migrants themselves or entrepreneurs can harness. (IDB, 2021:9). Publication available only in Spanish.



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

As regards *information focused on migrants or populations located in areas of origin with a high concentration of emigrants*, the following is available:

- Development, especially during the pandemic, of platforms and websites, primarily on regulations, procedures and provision of services for immigrants, returnees and potential migrants. Altogether, there is a base to develop spaces or useful applications for migrants from the moment that they plan their movement up to their return, as visitors or —voluntary or forced— returnees to their places of origin.
- For those in transit, in several countries there are basic mechanisms, such as information desks or stands. There, and by other means, guidance is offered on topics such as:
 - Routes, with their potential risks, shelters, aid stations and location of consulates.
 - Requirements to work, job offers and labour rights.
 - Rights and constraints for the access to all types of public services.
 - Support organisations.
 - Return programmes.
- Also, there are prevention campaigns developed through the media or by means of activities in vulnerable areas, warning against the risks of irregular migration or giving instruction against discrimination based on nationality or migration status.

In connection with *regional information*, there are developments prior to the Compact, but which continue moving forward:

- The census and survey consolidation work conducted by CELADE.
- IOM's Regional Platform for Migration Information (PRIMI), with diverse information and migration profiles.

- IOM's platform with diverse information and migration profiles.
- ILO's labour system diagnostics.
- The advocacy work of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP), which gathers a large part of the academics from the region who work on migration, and which is, along with the work of the United Nations agencies, the national statistical institutes and IDB's Migration Unit itself, an enormous potential to be coordinated.
- Bloque Latinoamericano —through which a great resource is available— located in various countries and willing to collaborate, to the best of its abilities, on research and information processes (see textbox 2).

The *cooperation* received thus far, particularly at an international level, and its positive assessment also represent progress and a future possibility:

- The United Nations system has provided significant technical assistance, which countries expect to continue receiving.
- Several countries have assumed IOM's governance indicators, which provide practical guidance to assess and adjust their directions.



Textbox 2. Bloque Latinoamericano

For several years, a set of civil society organisations from the region, has participated, with unified action, in several international events and circumstances on migration, such as Bloque Latinoamericano.

In 2017, in the framework of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, a significant group of organisations raised the following as demands of the Latin American civil society:

1. Non-regression in the migration policy of the region.
2. Access to justice, effective compensation for damages, and search and identification of remains.
3. Elimination of the detention of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees for administrative reasons associated with their migration status.
4. Policies aimed at preventing the deportation of migrants.
5. Adequacy of policies to assist asylum seekers and refugees.
6. Promotion of migration regularisation mechanisms.
7. Policies fostering the integration of migrants.
8. Implementation of policies and programmes for checking and monitoring temporary jobs.
9. Migration policies with a gender perspective.
10. Procedures ensuring the best interests of migrant children.
11. Protection of and full respect for the indigenous communities in the region.
12. Enforcement of international protection standards in the framework of the process for the implementation of the Peace Agreements in Colombia.
13. Recognition, support and non-criminalisation of the work of migrant advocates.
14. Broad participation of the civil society, migrants and refugees, as well as their family members, in the design and creation of regional public policies.

Source: https://fsmm2018.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2017/09/Posicionamiento-Bloque-Latinoamericano-GFMD-2017_ESPA%C3%91OL.pdf



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

2.1.2 Situations to consider

- Among the governments, civil society and other stakeholders in the region, there was widespread agreement on the information needs for the purposes of governance, assistance of vulnerable populations, and day-to-day lives of migrants in the various stages of their mobility processes. However, a high heterogeneity of those needs was underscored. While some countries have similar interests in connection with all the migration stages (immigration, emigration, transit and return), others have different particular interests, or focused on some of them. Information needs are related to *movements, stakeholders and circumstances* in the aforementioned stages:
- As regards movements and populations involved:
 - Difficulties, even incapacities, for capturing and estimating them.
 - Lack of national statistical information and serious difficulties in following up more basic migration flows, such as entries and exits.
 - Insufficient characterisation of the migrant population, even by typologies as basic as sex, gender, age, ethnicity and level of education.
 - Events and populations made invisible, such as migrants who die and disappear in transit, who, given the lack of records, are seldom mentioned.
- Scarcity of data on *labour*, training and experience concerning the migrant population.
 - Occupation, type of job, income, recruitment, time worked, working conditions, enjoyment of social security, among others, are variables required for governance.
 - The issue became more evident regarding a temporary and circular migration programme that, although on the one side is considered

as an opportunity and a labour alternative, on the other side – civil society, especially unions – is considered as a form of exploitation. In this regard, due consideration must be given to civil society participation – potential labour migrants, potential employers – in building temporary and circular migration agreements.

- *Location of the migrant population.*
 - Distribution of migrants in the territories and mobility within them.
 - Diversity of conditions (living, working, public attention, among others) both within cities and in the different areas of the countries.
 - Lack of data at subnational levels.
 - Lack of information to define policies and actions on areas such as transport, housing, health, water, sanitation, education and others.
- Insufficient data related to groups by national origin. Some groups, such as extra-continental migrants, require specific actions and are underrepresented in current studies.
- Lack of indicators at all levels on access to rights by migrants.

There is little information production or dissemination for developing instruments and contents on migration as a positive fact, required in the fight against xenophobia and discrimination of migrants. A recommendation from governments is that there should be data on access to social protection, health and education services. Specific needs are checked against data and facts that make it possible to identify the true role of the migrant population in economic and social areas, in a broad sense, for instance:

- Demand of services.
- Payment of taxes.



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- Generation of businesses and creation of jobs.
- Little participation in criminal acts.

National statistical systems do not have sources to work on issues related to migrants in situations of vulnerability, such as abuse, violence (including gender-based), exploitation, trafficking and discrimination. Neither do they have them to work on unaccompanied or separated child and adolescent migrants.

The *pandemic*, in addition to hindering, increasing the cost of or precluding the collection of migration-related data, has resulted in new demands of information.

- To assess the needs of migrants and to organise their care, including vaccination.
- The alternative of virtual information collection and delivery clashes with the lack of accessibility to electronic means of many migrants.

With the aforementioned requirements as a reference, the existing knowledge, particularly in terms of flows and stocks, shows various flaws, among them:

- Lack of data disaggregation, according to variables enabling the characterisation of facts and stakeholders.
- Problems related to outdated, comparability, coordination by levels and dissemination of or access to information.
- The data delivered frequently correspond to formalities (consultations on visas, for instance) and not to people.

Consequently, in view of the diversity among countries, social knowledge is not gained in this regard, migrants are made invisible and the relevance of state policies and actions is affected, blocking that population's access to rights. In addition, the lack of sufficient information on migrants and migration processes in the region, along with other factors, may contribute to the spreading of false or

misleading information on migration dynamics that may lead to social and political polarisations in connection with them.

To conclude, there is *insufficient information specifically oriented to migrants*, as a basis to facilitate their migration processes and to improve their safety.

2.1.3 Challenges

As regards the challenges of this issue, it should be borne in mind that migration data are just a part of the many data sets required by States; in addition to this, on occasions, agreements are signed without defining the specificity of commitments, the offices responsible for their enforcement and the necessary resources. With the preceding constraints and taking into account that the heterogeneity of conditions and needs among the countries requires flexibility, adaptability to their interests and concerns, and the consideration of not only national but also local problems, there is a somewhat common set of challenges, namely:

- Precise determination, in order of priorities, of the information required by a country, based on its relation with migration, with a clear perception of the actual need for data sets and their institutional and social use to contribute to knowing migration processes and to policy making.
- Measurement of the progress made and setbacks encountered in the exercise of rights by migrants, considering the following as relevant issues:
 - Consideration of multi-sectoral approaches on the migration issue.
 - Need to strengthen this consideration at the national and local level.
 - Inter-institutional articulation, not only among state agencies, but also including stakeholders from the private sector, the academia and the civil society.



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- Assessment of the progress made in the region for the purposes of replicating it once adapted to the conditions, interests and needs of the countries.
- As regards data management, there is a need to deal with several particular challenges:
 - Transparency, especially in the case of sources, in terms of their use.
 - Unrestricted protection, at all times, of people's privacy.
 - Fundamentally, not using individualised information, obtained for statistical purposes, for security or control.

Meeting the aforementioned challenges would open the door to another highly important one: using, in addition to strictly administrative migration records, other service provision or activity records (education, health, labour, social security, business, among others) to obtain information associated with migration and its stakeholders.

- As for the construction of a new discourse on migration, with a view to addressing discrimination and xenophobia:
 - Contents must be firmly developed on positive aspects so as to challenge stereotypes.
 - In addition to the construction of data, indicators and narratives, awareness-raising institutions, including the education system and the media, should take ownership of them.
 - This would be a significant cultural task, including the research and widespread communication of the historic and current contributions of migration in the places of destination and origin.
 - To position public discourses with positive

narratives around migration, there should be promotion in mass media and be communicated utilizing channels and languages that are used by local and migrant populations.

- Regarding the variables of the existing documents that must be collected, processed and reported—which make it possible to know the basic demographic and social particularities of migrant populations—the following breakdown—with rights and gender approaches—is required:
 - País de nacimiento o nacionalidad.
 - Edad.
 - Sexo/género.
 - Nivel educativo.
 - Grupo étnico.
 - Ocupación.
 - También deben incluirse otras variables como los ingresos, la pertenencia a un grupo racial, la situación migratoria, la discapacidad, la ubicación geográfica y otras características relevantes en los contextos nacionales.
- Use (in those cases where the size of the samples enables it) of household surveys periodically conducted by countries for general purposes or to study the labour markets.
- Support to the Latin American Population Association (ALAP) in its proposal to hold a global survey on migration.
- Conversion of the outcomes of public opinion surveys into usual sources of migration knowledge. The same applies to potential innovative sources of data or big data, of which the following was presented as examples:



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- o Use and analysis of aggregated data on the origins and destinations of international virtual connections that would make it possible to measure mobility trends by nationality.
- o Analysis of social network contents, which would contribute information on perceptions, useful for migration governance.
- o Use of information about migrants in financial, labour, health care and other bases.
- Management of the engagement of some international agencies that deal with trafficking and smuggling data with specialised institutional working groups so as to work on the issue of information about trafficking, discrimination and assistance of children and adolescents.
- The migration information set should be integrated into a system, or subsystem, in all countries. In terms of the procedures and partnerships to build it, it should be acknowledged that, in the academia and civil society, there is capacity to produce and analyse data, which is why they must be engaged in the task under the coordination of national statistical and planning development institutions. The academia, in particular, is expected to contribute to improving the quality standards and reliability of the information, as well as its use.
- Free access to bases with anonymised data on migration, starting with regular household surveys, so that institutions and researchers can work with them.

As regards the construction of national, or subnational, migration information systems, other challenges must be responded to, such as:

- Coordination of diverse organisations in terms of their nature and level of hierarchy.
- Greater willingness of those institutions which collect

data to share them to others which are capable of processing or wish to use them.

- Systematisation and digitization of some data and records that are still captured in paper forms.
- Standardization of indicators and measurements to facilitate comparability across countries in the region and to facilitate performance reporting.
- Methodological difficulties, such as the veracity of the data submitted by migrants, and capture of information in irregular migration scenarios.
- Management of information in conditions of respect for people's privacy, required by institutions themselves.
- As a special issue, the relation between data and their identification on the field based on georeferencing, at the lowest geographical level possible, should be considered for all the migration information, so that the territorial location of migrant communities (not individuals) and their accessibility to services can be known.

At the regional level, the challenge is to create a consensual harmonisation system to collect data and produce information with a rights approach. Various spaces for dialogue, among them, the conferences on migration, and regional and subregional integration agencies (ALADI, ALBA, CAN, CARICOM, CELAC, MERCOSUR, the Pacific Alliance, SELA and SICA) are available. Work should begin by searching agreements on language and definitions, priorities of issues to be measured and indicators.

Several challenges were raised for those who research migration issues:

- First, they should keep in mind that migrants are research subjects and outcomes should be made known to them.

³ La Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI), la Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América (ALBA), la Comunidad Andina (CAN), la Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM), la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC), el Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR), el Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe (SELA) y el Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA).

2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- Second, the organisations to which they resort should be respected, in terms of acknowledging their contributions. In addition, communication materials should be developed in an understandable and inclusive language, so that they can serve as a basis for the media to report on migration matters of general interest.

Overcoming difficulties in this area, as well as meeting its objectives and challenges, will be more thorough and likelier if addressed on the basis of the cooperation among the countries of the region themselves. Sharing experiences and searching for joint solutions will bring about better and more sustainable outcomes.

2.1.4 Highlights

- ▶ *Progress was made on the production of national and regional migration information.*
- ▶ *A clear interest in the issues of this thematic area was recognised, as it was underscored that cooperation and partnerships are essential issues for human mobility. Multilateral collaboration plays an important role in the management of knowledge and, by means of shared experiences, it helps each national stakeholder to move towards comprehensive information systems.*
- ▶ *In this context, the need to have more disaggregated information; information on labour, discrimination, children and adolescents; relevant information of understudied population groups was identified. The need for sources that nurture the work to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants was also stressed. In addition, the lack of content production to further the conceptualisation of the contributions of migration to sustainable development was noted.*

- ▶ *It is important, in this sense, to consistently follow up, at a national level, the available information for devising public policies based on evidence. Meanwhile, at a regional level, the challenge lies in the creation of a standardised system for the production of information with a rights approach.*
- ▶ *The international work can help to achieve internal coherence and increased and enhanced dialogue with other countries. Technical and financial cooperation and international support are also very important not only for information management, but also joint advocacies on sensitive and controversial issues.*



Photo by Muse Mohammed (IOM), 2019

2.2 Thematic area 2:

Protecting the human rights, safety and well-being of migrants, among other things, by means of addressing factors of vulnerability in migration and mitigating vulnerability situations



This area is related to the objectives below:

- 2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.
- 7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.
- 8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants.
- 12. Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral.
- 13. Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives.
- 23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

2.2.1 Progress and potentialities

As a significant progress made in this thematic area, focusing in a high migration area, the Comprehensive Development Plan for Central America (CDP) was highlighted. It was jointly assumed by El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and

Mexico, and aims, in particular, at addressing the structural causes of migration (see textbox 3). Its four pillars are: economic development, social well-being, environmental sustainability, and comprehensive management of the migratory cycle. The CDP addresses multiple migration factors from the target countries, including social, political, economic, environmental and climatic elements.

In the review process, the Plan was firmly supported. In addition to the support by the delegations of the countries involved, endorsements by the Executive Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Director General of the International Migration Organization (IOM) and the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, and the representation of the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) stand out.

Starting from the fact that the irregular migration status is at the centre of many of the vulnerabilities of migrants, several countries reported significant progress to prevent such status. To that end, they have facilitated the regular entry or developed plans to standardise the documentation of those who reside in an irregular manner.

Textbox 3. Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico

The Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and South-Southeast Mexico, submitted on May 20, 2021 in Mexico, is an innovative plan because it puts sustainable development at the centre. It also has the political commitment of the four governments and coordinates proposals of all the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations System acting in the region.

The Plan, devised since 2018 by 21 United Nations agencies, coordinated by ECLAC, is based on four pillars – economic development, social well-being, environmental sustainability, and migratory cycle– and includes 15 thematic programmes and 114 projects ready to be implemented, involving a total investment of 45 billion dollars over five years.

COVID 19 hit hard El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. In 2020, around 12 million people fell into poverty in these countries. The crisis in the United States has mainly affected migrants, with a negative impact on remittances.

The fiscal position of those countries has been affected by the expenditure to face the pandemic. In addition, hurricanes Eta and Iota affected more than 4 million people and resulted in losses above 70% of the production in the agricultural sector. For this reason, it is urgent that access of those countries to concessional funds and the Green Climate Fund be ensured.

ECLAC estimates that, in 2020, the gross domestic product (GDP) of Mexico fell 9%; of El Salvador, 8.6%; of Honduras, 8%; and of Guatemala, 2.5%.

The COVID 19 pandemic aggravates the structural challenges of the region and requires a comprehensive and large-scale response. An ambitious response is required to capitalise the development potential of the region.

We are talking about 60 million people that may represent a large market. We are talking about countries with a privileged geographical location; access to both oceans; a high concentration of natural resources and biodiversity; an extraordinary cultural diversity; an integrationist vocation; large, increasingly schooled youth populations; and significant productive capacities that must be magnified.

The challenge today is to address the structural causes of migration, among them, insufficient growth, poverty and inequality (the 10% with the highest income earns up to 70 times more than the poorest 10%); the significant demographic growth in cities and the serious rural lag; vulnerability to climatic change; increased levels of violence; the pay gap with the United States, and the needs for family reunification.

The proposal is, then, a plan with development at the centre to address the structural causes of irregular migration. It is essential to build this development space and change the dominant paradigm so that human mobility can be an option and not an obligation. And we know that we have the political commitment of the four countries.

Source: <https://www.cepal.org/en/pressreleases/eclac-highlighted-innovative-approach-comprehensive-development-plan-northern-central>

On the topic of progress, there are actions for raising awareness of and training in human rights, detecting profiles and triggering specialised care and protection systems for migration control staff, especially at borders. Prevention and assistance programmes aimed at mitigating or responding to vulnerability situations of specific migrant groups in the various stages of the migration process have also been implemented. The following programmes can be identified, just to mention a few:

- Those which address unaccompanied children and adolescents in all stages.
- Those which assist victims of trafficking in persons or gender-based violence.
- Those oriented to returnees.

2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- Those which support migrants in transit, occasionally including:
 - Basic emergency medical care.
 - Mental health and psychosocial support services.
 - Food and shelter.
- Those which ensure that during emergencies and disasters, vulnerable migrants have access to basic services, protection and security, and means of repatriation.

Actions addressing situations involving the death and disappearance of migrants in some countries, among them:

- Forensic banks of migrants.
- Assistance for the families of victims.
- National search commission.
- Special commission on missing persons and massacres.
- Foundation for missing persons.

The adoption of the Regional Framework Law on Migration, by the Special Inter-Parliamentary Commission for Migration (CIEMG), the Forum of Presidents of Legislative Branches in Central America and the Caribbean Basin (FOPREL), is a notable achievement in the field under discussion and serves as a landmark for the rest of the region (see textbox 4).

Textbox 4. Regional Framework Law on Migration

Given the crisis caused by the increased regional migration flows in 2018, FOPREL created the Special Inter-Parliamentary Commission for Migration (CIEMG-FOPREL), which is made up by the Presidents of the Parliaments that are part of the forum. CIEMG-FOPREL immediately adopted a regional action plan to comprehensively address migration flows by means of harmonising the legal frameworks; developing legislative studies and building capacity on migration governance at the parliament level.

CIEMG-FOPREL adopted the Regional Framework Law on Migration with a Human Rights approach, the first one to have resulted from inter-sectoral and inter-parliamentary consensus. It was jointly drafted by the IOM and FOPREL, with the support of: Centro de Estudios Internacionales Gilberto Bosques of the Mexican Senate, the Section to support Representative Institutions of the Secretariat for strengthening Democracy of the Organization of American States (OAS), Save the Children, UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Regional Office of UN Women for the Americas and Caribbean.

The Regional Framework Law aims at creating a legal and guiding framework that contributes to safe, orderly and regular migration, based on respect for, guarantee and effective fulfilment of the human rights of migrants in all the stages of the migration process, with special attention to populations in vulnerability conditions, in the region of Central America, the Caribbean Basin and Mexico. In addition, it is focused on contributing to minimising the adverse and structural factors compelling people to leave their country of origin and, in turn, it establishes provisions to address and reduce migration-related vulnerabilities.

The Regional Framework Law is currently a piece of legislation approved at the highest level which serves as a basis for legislative harmonisation and modernisation. FOPREL, together with the IOM, has initiated a support and socialisation process for the study and subsequent adequacy of such Framework to the national legislations of the region.

FOPREL, 2020



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

On the basis of the importance of cities as the first instance of engagement with the immigrant population, some of them worked on a protection, integration and interculturality

approach. The cases of São Paulo (see textbox 5) and Montevideo —efforts that have been deployed in spite of competence and resource constraints— stand out.

Textbox 5. The experience of São Paulo

Cities appear as the first instances to protect the migrant population and the access to rights and interculturality. Led by local authorities, São Paulo has become an example, even though resources are insufficient to meet the entire demand.

To assist the migrant population, the following is combined: a legal framework (2016 Law); a municipal council for migrants with gender parity; coordination of sectors to address regularisation; training of public officials; municipal plan for the assistance of migrants, with the participation of the civil society; defined flows of assistance, with approaches to reduce the impacts of differences; public centres for receiving migrants and ensuring health care.

In addition, there is a migrant leadership, coordinated with the society, United Nations agencies and other international and governmental organisations. There is also cooperation among cities, such as Santa Catarina and Recife; and there is a working group on public narratives around migration.

In terms of financing, the political will of authorities and the legal definition to maintain reception centres and other services, with a budget that increased every year, have been key. As this is a cross-cutting policy, the various secretariats contribute with their budgets. Additionally, United Nations agencies provide their support.

Source: Municipality of São Paulo, https://migrationnetwork.un.org/country-regional-network/latin-america-caribbean#_Round table 2.

There was also progress on the protection of migrant children and adolescents, including the creation of a “protective spaces” programme to identify children with care needs on walking routes, conducted by means of cooperation among international bodies and local governments from the territories which migrants go through.

Progress has been noted throughout the region in terms of addressing disasters, environmental degradation and climate change impacts as adverse factors for migration, such as:

- Identification of certain vulnerabilities associated, for instance, with hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, drought or rising sea levels in multiple countries, with a differentiated incidence of the various threats either related or not to climate change in the different subregions, and a complex relationship with other migration factors.

- Acknowledgement of the significant and increasing effect that climate change has on migration, with impacts on every subregion. The situation of small island States of the Caribbean captured particular attention in this regard due to the existence of multiple threats in a marked vulnerability scenario.
- Development of various national policies and strategies to improve the management of environmental migration and the identification of this issue in some countries as a work priority in the climate agenda.
- Information exchange between the States and the public so that each can assume their role. This adds to the will to improve communication, to pool resources, and to coordinate responses to mitigate disasters.

2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- CARICOM has bodies facilitating cooperation. The 2021 eruption in Saint Vincent resulted in migrations and joint subregional responses. As with COVID-19, efforts are made to assist the most vulnerable persons (see textbox 6).

Box 6. The pandemic offers an opportunity for the Caribbean to capitalize on its progress in managing disaster risks, an important factor of human mobility in the subregion

For several years now, the Caribbean as a region has tried to respond to natural factors that contribute to migration, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, rising sea levels, and volcanic eruptions (Mejía, 2018: 44). In this framework, the Pandemic has appeared as an opportunity to apply a systemic focus to said efforts for the benefit of the entire region. This is the opinion expressed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and ECLAC, based on the following extract from the report “The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: An Opportunity to Apply a Systemic Focus to Disaster Risks in the Caribbean”:

“Being aware of the need to prepare for and respond in a strategic manner to conventional natural dangers, over the years Caribbean governments have established a set of legal and institutional frameworks for addressing multiple risks, in order to orient emergency operations during and immediately after a disaster. Traditionally, most frameworks for disaster emergency management were developed as a function of the manner in which the risks were understood at the time. The dynamic of disasters is changing, however, as we have been shown by the COVID-19 Pandemic, an unprecedented crisis that underlines the need to move towards a new paradigm based on a more comprehensive and systemic focus that allows various dangers to be addressed simultaneously, and general resilience in the face of disasters to be strengthened, and much greater emphasis to be placed on mitigating the factors that drive risks before they materialize.”

UNDRR - ECLAC, 2021: 22.

As a piece of legislation for States in the defence of the LGBTBIQ+ migrant population, the 2017 Advisory Opinion of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, on the obligation of States regarding name change, gender identity, and the rights that derive from a same-sex relationship, which has already been invoked in concrete cases, is available.

2.2.2 Situations to consider

Addressing the causes of migration, especially the structural ones, continues to be a constrained task despite the efforts made by the countries, with a significant increase in mobility and recurring migration in the region.

This had led immigration, emigration (and, with it, return) and transit to become, simultaneously, significant in a large part of the countries in the region.

Massive migration, confined to certain countries of origin, has shown, in some parts, setbacks to the human rights of migrants, among them:

- Disappearance and death of migrants, especially in transit processes, with a lack of their corresponding records and figures, both in the places of origin and destination⁴.
- Xenophobia waves significantly affecting underage populations.

⁴ It was stated that the civil society had documented massacres of migrants on the Central American route, that mass graves had been found and that extrajudicial executions had been reported.

2. Main findings, by thematic areas

The lack of regular migration alternatives, which affects some subregions, continues to be at the core of those situations which affect people in their migration processes, and, frequently, result in disappearance, death, aggression of all sorts, including sexual assault, and, in general, violation of rights, to the extent that such lack leads to irregular migration contexts, such as:

- Informal employment or under exploitation or extortion conditions on migration routes highly associated with hazards.
- Experiencing crime, abuse, violence or even exploitation such as trafficking in persons, in the context of migration, including smuggling.
- Not seeking, for fear of detention or deportation, help in situations of risk.

The mass Venezuelan migration continues, with special prominence towards Colombia, where Colombians returning from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela also arrive. The presence of criminal groups of various types in areas of the Colombian-Venezuelan border and the fight against each other for territorial control have resulted in new exit flows that, undoubtedly, move in pursuit of shelter to protect their lives. As regards the Caribbean, it was mentioned in the process that more people are moving from large to small territories.

Vulnerabilities in mass and irregular migration have increased—a trend that seems to be accompanied by the growing presence of women, children and indigenous persons.

- Concerning the unaccompanied or separated children and adolescents, some protection systems for them have coordination and cooperation shortfalls.
- In the pandemic, their particularities have not been considered within the educational system, e.g. their levels of Internet connection and their availability of electronic devices to access virtual classes or assignments.
- Health systems considerations could also be

highlighted especially in places where access to health care facilities is usually problematic/absent for children and adolescents.

- In the Central American subregion, tens of thousands unaccompanied minors have been registered, at least in one of the countries.
- Migrant women, apart from their increased vulnerabilities, are separated from men by wide gaps in terms of enjoyment of rights.

Other groups, such as indigenous persons, survivors of human trafficking, LGBTBIQ+ persons and persons with disabilities, also have particular vulnerabilities, in spite of which, they tend to be made invisible in the regional migration processes. From its organisations, the LGBTBIQ+ population complains that the Compact does not explicitly refer to it and that, in addition, rights that had already been recognised are being denied to them.

In addition to the aforementioned vulnerabilities, there are other special ones in the region, such as those of persons migrating on foot, who cover long distances in South and Central America, as well as those of persons seeking shelter, who frequently do not have possibilities to prepare for their forced displacements.

In the labour field, there are high levels of informality and a high frequency of precarious working conditions among migrants, which are especially sensitive in domestic workers, as well as the prohibition for migrants to be a part of union authorities in some countries.

Situations with predominance of migration policies with national security at their core persist, which implies:

- Criminalisation due to migration infringements.
- Mass expulsions to the point that it was reported that a country had received hundreds of thousands of deported people.
- Exercise of violence.



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- New forms of discrimination, even institutional ones.
- The perception of migration being a threat/burden to national security and safety.

Concerning the detention of migrants, including children and adolescents, there is great diversity, with countries where it is virtually automatic and others where it is barely residual. The former tend to focus in the north of the region, while the latter, in the south.

With the development of the pandemic, there have been additional risks and vulnerabilities for migrants:

- Setbacks in terms of respect for human rights.
- Need to address physical and mental health situations.
- Border closures and militarisation resulting in situations of “stranded” migrants, violations of human rights and increased irregular migration.
- Resource constraints for countries to face the health emergency and its effects.
- The condition of migrants, in particular families, children and adolescents, detained for breaching migration laws.

There is a growing concern about the relationship among disasters, environmental degradation, climate change and human mobility. Hurricanes Eta and Iota in November 2020 and the eruption of the La Soufrière volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have been associated with migration processes of several types, including displacements and evacuations.

2.2.3 Challenges

The objective to act upon the adverse and structural factors that compel people to emigrate is connected, in fact, with strategic interests of any State, such as the fight against poverty, inequality, discrimination, social and gender-based violence, and insecurity, among other factors; and the commitment to ensure access to education, employment, health care, in other words, the pursuit of social well-being and sustainable development.

Considering that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 goals (SDGs), includes the aforementioned purposes, committing to its effective implementation is the best way to impact the negative structural factors implied by irregular emigration. A specific challenge arises: focusing actions for the enforcement of the Agenda in areas or populations that are more susceptible to irregular migration, which, in itself, can be indicative of the urgency to advance them with the agenda.

Changes of government or special situations, such as COVID 19, massive migration flows or increased flows should be prevented from affecting the progress made on the protection of the human rights of migrants.

The countries that still criminalise migration and resort, as a common practice, to migrant detention, in some cases, involving children and adolescents, who may be alone or with their families, face the challenge to eliminate such procedures and to make changes in the regulations supporting them. Those countries which have already walked that road should support this process.

Understanding that irregular migration can hinder the location of persons and the access to them for COVID 19 vaccination or treatment, it is urgent for all countries, among other things, on grounds of public health and national convenience, to reach and assist them with no discrimination whatsoever. Complementarily, as migrants have been front-line workers during the pandemic, they should be considered during the recovery process, taking advantage of it to contribute to their integration.



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

For the sake of human rights, pending tasks should be assumed in terms of transforming rules and procedures granting high levels of discretion to officials and reduced defence possibilities to migrants —a situation that is even more critical when there are no instances of appeal. Likewise, mechanisms aimed at facilitating the action of human rights organisations should be strengthened for them to manage these issues.

Immigrants who are far away from urban centres are, in general, more vulnerable, which is why their protection must be especially addressed, providing them —even by means of technological resources— with information, justice services, channels for migration regularisation, among others. Fulfilling this purpose offers the opportunity to develop or strengthen inter-institutional coordination mechanisms involving actions at different State levels, as well as civil society organisations willing to contribute to the task.

Countries shall commit to the issue of disasters, environmental degradation, climate change and other environmental phenomena inducing migration. Coherence between the enforcement of the Compact and policies for adaptation, risk reduction and mitigation of the consequences associated with these phenomena poses a challenge and, in turn, a cooperation opportunity given the increasing interest in the region to address this issue.

The *gender and child perspectives* of the guiding principles of the Compact must be implemented in practice, with the following considerations:

- Taking part in a broader approach to guarantee rights with a differential factor.
- Including populations that may require specialised assistance based on age, ethnicity, language or other factors.
- The gender perspective must overcome the man-woman dichotomy and include, beyond simply biological criteria, the entire LGTBIQ+ population.

- Legal frameworks must be strengthened so as not to discriminate and include the migrant population with all its diversity.
- Regarding differential treatment, one of the greatest challenges derived is related to the inter-sectorality of responses, the synchronisation of various State areas that have something to contribute to the issue. Multiple State stakeholders should participate to identify gaps that must be addressed and make visible progress.
- Establishing more coordination among institutions and geographical government levels, as well as cooperation with other States, which implies defining or improving communication channels.

Concerning the safety of migrants in transit and the protection of their rights, several challenges were raised: deploying staff and resources on borders for the protection of migrants; building their capacity to detect migrants in situations of vulnerability and to trigger responses adequate to their profile; and increasing training in such issues for judges and law enforcement personnel.

As regards *disappearances and deaths* of migrants in transit, the following is stated:

- For their prevention, investigation and punishment, actions should be coordinated in the places of origin and destination, and, possibly, in transit countries.
- Public Defender's Offices and consulates should be provided with resources and work in partnership with migrant organisations and migrant defence organisations, among others.
- Producing and sharing, in the places of origin and destination, information on missing persons leading to the identification of victims. To this end, national agencies should be coordinated and international databases on cases should be created and be accessible in real time.



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- Creating working groups for psychosocial care and search follow-up.
- Collecting DNA samples and creating banks.

For *walkers*, care services on the routes must be established or improved.

2.2.4 Highlights

- ▶ *In terms of the adverse environmental and climate factors of migration, a greater integration of policies and the development of concrete actions based on commitments and global guidelines, such as the Compact itself, continue to be necessary.*
- ▶ *The importance of working in a coordinated manner on migration regularisation was recognised as a priority strategy to foster the access to rights and the prevention of vulnerability situations associated with irregular migration. The States have moved forward in that direction, but with varying degrees of development, even at the multilateral level.*
- ▶ *An increase in abuse, violence, exploitation and even deaths and disappearances was identified on migration journeys, as well as an increase in situations of discrimination, abuse and xenophobia against migrants. This has also worsened the situation of intersectional vulnerability experienced by children and adolescents, indigenous populations and other migrant groups with poor visibility (LGTBIQ+, among others). There still remain events causing concern in numerous stakeholders, such as arbitrary detentions, collective expulsions and criminalisation of migration, among other practices.*
- ▶ *Solving these adverse factors can mitigate the structural causes leading a person to migrate in an irregular manner. In addition, contextual situations should be prevented from blocking or hindering further*

progress in terms of acquired rights. A generalised call for the need to effectively incorporate the gender perspective and child-sensitive approach enshrined in the Compact was also identified.

- ▶ *It should be accepted that migration processes have structural determining factors rooted in inequalities and the lack of opportunities for most migrants. When combined with contextual factors, such as the pandemic, they should be treated under non-discriminatory regimes ensuring their protection regardless of their migration status.*
- ▶ *Strengthening of the rule of law and due process can aid the reduction of statelessness and the expansion of legal identity to indirectly foster migrant inclusion and improved access to services and social protection.*



Photo by UN Migration Agency (IOM), 2014

2.3 Thematic area 3: Addressing irregular migration, even by means of border management and fight against transnational crime



The objectives for this area are as follows:

- 9. Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants.
- 10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration.
- 11. Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner.
- 14. Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle.
- 21. Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration.
- 23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

2.3.1 Progress

Efficient border management, necessary to prevent and combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking, is a common concern in the region, for which various technological resources are implemented. The main purposes of these resources include:

- Standardising documentation and its reading and recording systems.
- Speeding up migration processes.
- Identifying those responsible for smuggling.

- Preventing migration fraud.

For the foregoing, border personnel have been trained in identity, registration and interview issues. In addition, there are bilateral agreements on integrated border control mechanisms.

Concerning *consular systems*, technological modernisation and administrative simplification are part of the improvements of many countries, which benefit both nationals and foreigners demanding migration-related assistance.

- The consulate staff training emphasises the following:
 - Supporting nationals in repatriation processes, regardless of reasons.
 - Addressing issues involving children and adolescents, and victims of trafficking and persons in contexts of smuggling.
 - Identifying migrants in situations of vulnerability and providing services according to their profile.
- The pandemic put to the test the capacity of consular networks to assist migrants throughout the migration process, but it also promoted the creation of virtual and more expeditious assistance procedures.

In addition, the Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities (RIAM) is an important asset for the region (see textbox 7).

Textbox 7. Concerns of the regional migration authorities

As regards screening, assessment and referral, RIAM has set out to establish criteria and measures for a more effective and efficient migration control making it possible to contribute to combating transnational crimes, such as trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, document falsification, and other issues, so as to improve migration management in keeping with the legal frameworks and regulations of each country.

In terms of addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration, one of the issues that has been present on the work agendas is sharing migrant protection protocols, mechanisms for the protection of migrant children and adolescents, and building migration settings that protect the human rights of migrants, in particular, of those who are in a situation of special vulnerability.

Finally, in the Protocol, RIAM expresses its commitment to the promotion of regular migration processes, developed in an orderly fashion, ensuring the protection of the rights of migrants, the sovereignty of member countries, the integration of that population, the family unity of migrants, the best interests of children and adolescents in migration processes, and the non criminalisation of irregular migration.

Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities (RIAM), 2020

Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons tend to be jointly addressed in the region, even though concrete actions are mostly oriented to trafficking, especially its prevention, the protection of victims and the prosecution of the crime:

- Programmes of information on risks, addressed to populations in situations of vulnerability.
- Training and awareness-raising activities for officials, especially border ones, so as to identify ongoing cases and preventing their consummation.
- Actions aimed at preventing fraudulent job offers abroad.
- Management and progress related to the investigation, prosecution and criminal sanction of crimes.
- International coordination of police stakeholders for dismantling criminal networks associated with this issue.
- Regional coordination for the prosecution of the crime and assistance of victims.

In addition, in a broader context, the Ibero-American Network of Specialized Prosecutors against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants:

- Shares information, which has made it possible, among other things, to know the routes for the commission of such crimes.
- Has the “Protocolo de Cooperación Interinstitucional para fortalecer la investigación, atención y protección a víctimas del delito de trata de personas entre los Ministerios Públicos Iberoamericanos” [Protocol of inter-institutional cooperation to strengthen the investigation, assistance and protection for victims of the crime of trafficking in persons among the Ibero-American public prosecutor’s offices] (AIAMP), which allows it to coordinate operations among countries, share tools and have a list of contacts to facilitate the assistance of victims.
- The network has focused on the reparation for victims, promoting the non-revictimisation and the pursuit of restitution of their rights. To do this, their work is highly important as coordination is key when the property for compensation is in a third country.

2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- It also aims at representing victims (Santiago guide), which requires coordination with other bodies (such as defender or ombudsperson offices).

In terms of assisting populations in greater situations of vulnerability associated with trafficking and smuggling, especially of women, children and adolescents:

- In general, the regulations of countries have sufficient parameters for it.
- There are programmes for the protection of women who are victims of violence, of migrant children, as well as others addressing victims of trafficking, to which special cooperation protocols of the IOM apply.
- For victims, returning to the place of origin is voluntary in every country of the network and, if they do so, it is sought that they continue to be represented in the place of destination, of which the Ibero-American Network of Prosecutors is in charge.

2.3.2 Situations to consider

Flows are increasingly complex, with various profiles, and there is greater vulnerability in transit. In addition, due to the pandemic, new trafficking and smuggling modalities have arisen.

Traffickers and smugglers have adapted their recruitment forms, taking advantage of some pandemic-related factors, such as increased unemployment and de-schooling, border closure, wider access to virtual modalities, and others which already existed, but have worsened due to COVID 19. The following can be noted:

- The existence of organised criminal networks in the region that take advantage of the vulnerability of migrants.
- The precarious situation on transit routes which increases adverse migration factors.
- The barriers imposed on regular migration.

- Widespread informality and exploitation in many sectors of migrant workers, in particular.
- The irregular status of migrants, who may be separated from their protection networks and more exposed to exploitation.
- The porosity and, on occasions, the large extent of the borders in the region.

From the civil society, it was repeatedly mentioned that the closure of borders due to the pandemic and the security reinforcement on them have implied more human rights violations for migrants and human rights breaches in border communities.

As expected, the aforementioned closures and restrictions on international mobility have driven many migrants to run unexpected risks, such as taking more dangerous routes, and further exposing themselves to fall prey to smugglers of migrants and traffickers of persons.

As an aggravating circumstance, the pandemic has hindered the identification of potential and effective victims of trafficking, even more so when situations occur away from capitals, where, in addition, the mobility of officials and aid has been restricted, as well as the availability of investigation and evidence gathering forces.

It is widely acknowledged that, in case of being a victim, irregular migrants face particular difficulties to access justice for fear of deportation. As women are more exposed, together with children and adolescents, these difficulties especially affect them and, even though there is a very frequent feeling that the regulations of countries have sufficient parameters to assist the most vulnerable populations in terms of trafficking and smuggling, it is evident that this is not sufficiently translated into effective national and regional prevention policies.

In addition, the pandemic put to the test the capacity of consular networks to assist migrants throughout the migration process. These networks have been constrained



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

to provide the expected response to all the migrants who have required their services and who, due to the pandemic, have had difficulty accessing shelters, which have either closed down or restricted their use.

Other difficulties identified around this issue were:

- Inexistence of standardised migrant registration and statistical systems, and information on the actions of trafficking and smuggling networks, including changing dynamics in the face of the impact of the pandemic.
- As a consequence, impossibility to generate assistance and crime detection policies based on sound knowledge of facts.
- Lack of regional statistics on the impact of prevention measures.
- Tendency to make sexual trafficking visible to the detriment of detecting and addressing labour trafficking cases.
- Slave labour cases of foreigners in some countries, especially in the Southern Cone.

2.3.3 Challenges

As overall *priority challenges* related to the reduction of the vulnerability exposing people to risk situations, the following arise:

- Facilitating regular migration.
- Expanding safe migration routes.
- As regards migrants already in the territory:
 - Right to work.
 - Regularisation with long-term residence.

- Recognition of the rights to access justice, due process and well-being, in addition to civil and labour rights of any migrant, regardless of migration status.
- Establishment of partnerships between the government and the private sector, trade unions and other social stakeholders for employment or entrepreneurship purposes, particularly in contexts of reintegration or integration of migrants.
- Creation of guidelines for employers of refugees.

As for *trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants*:

- Analysing migration causes of any type, in special, those which increase trafficking and smuggling risks, and acting based on results.
- Maintaining the identification and surveillance of the recruitment methods and routes used by traffickers and smugglers, as well as of control and coercion methods to exploit trafficking victims.
- Ensuring that this issue is addressed from a gender and age perspective, and with differentiated approaches according to the profile and context of each migrant.
- Regularisation, as a key part of the protection and assistance of trafficking victims, which enables enhanced access to the labour market, social services, among others.
- Even though assistance is provided in the framework of the laws of the countries where victims are located, cooperation between the places of origin and destination is necessary.
- Always having the victim's consent and bilaterally coordinating with the country of origin. In particular, this coordination is significant when taking into account



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

the assisted voluntary return, from the moment it is considered an option. It is up to the specialised authorities in the place of origin to contribute to the risk analysis and the preparation for the return.

- Due to COVID 19, the national plans against trafficking and smuggling should be reviewed, their sufficiency in the current conditions should be assessed, and actions aimed at adapting to the new context should be increased.
- Providing enough information and awareness about the hazards implied by trafficking and smuggling and the possibility to become a trafficking victim or a smuggled migrant during the migration quest.
- Not forgetting that the eradication of trafficking has been committed to, as the ultimate aim of the fight against it.
- Focusing on the most vulnerable population to be recruited by trafficking networks.
- Seeking coordination of the approaches and action mechanisms of prosecutors and police forces.

As regards *border management*:

- Reviewing border management and redesigning or adjusting its governance from a human rights perspective.
- Reinforcing the institutional capacity to assist migrants and speed up their formalities.
- Reinforcing border management promoting legal dynamics, ensuring effective controls that do not hinder the movement of persons and goods in economically, culturally and socially integrated areas, as is usually the case in border cities that are part of a conurbation.
- Establishing mechanisms for the protection of children and adolescents, non-detention and maintenance of the family unit.

- Strengthening the capacity to detect, assist and refer migrants in situations of vulnerability to the relevant protection systems (child protection, response to gender-based violence, response to trafficking, among others).

Challenges associated with *consular protection*:

- Reinforcing and continuing the improvement of the capacity of consular and diplomatic representations, which, among the special cases to consider, should include the assistance of migrants in situations of vulnerability not only in relation to trafficking, but also to issues such as detention, murder, massacre, to which resources need to be allotted.
- Effectively enforcing bilateral and multilateral agreements (such as in MERCOSUR and CAN) to provide consular assistance to nationals of countries party to them if, in the place where they require it, there is no consulate of their own country.

Concerning the *return and reintegration* situations, it is worth considering:

- The profiles of returnees and of return migration are multiple, but, in any context, a decent and safe return with full respect for the rights of migrants should be sought.
- For deportations, care should be taken to always carry them out with the coordination of the authorities from the countries to which persons will be deported and with the preparation, by such authorities, of the required humanitarian assistance and the return home or to a temporary shelter, if there is no home, in keeping with the profile and specific needs of returnees.
- Voluntary or humanitarian return must be a preferable option to deportation. For certain migrant profiles in vulnerable situations, among the alternatives, regular pathways for admission and stay for labour, family reunification or humanitarian reasons with access to services should be considered.



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- No refoulement without assessing risks to persons. This also applies to deportation.
- Returnees must be connected with reception and reintegration programmes in place, coordinating their reintegration into the workforce with the local development processes. This requires coordinated and sustained actions among the various counterparts supporting returnees. Employment must address a person's individual profile, with differentiated approaches and based on a reintegration plan addressing economic, social and psychosocial dimensions for processes to be sustainable.

In terms of *cooperation and partnerships*, challenges have also arisen:

- Continuation of the progress on the formulation of multilateral policies in the various dialogue and integration spaces in which the countries of the region participate.
- Commitment to and support of treaties by parliaments.
- Reinforcement of international information systems and migration data analysis centres and cooperation among themselves.
- Construction of broad partnerships, with the engagement of the civil society and local governments, migrants, academia, specialists, and in general, all the relevant stakeholders. The information sharing capacity must be taken advantage of to promote coordination among public and private networks and stakeholders.

In any case, migrants still need to be assisted and the terms for their permanence should be extended during the pandemic.

Finally, it should always be borne in mind that, by strengthening the capacities of the civil society organisations and their inclusion in governance processes, the chances of success of the foregoing and other purposes, among other things, will improve.

2.3.4 Highlights

- ▶ *The round tables and thematic area addressed crucial issues illustrating the need for multilateral cooperation and engagement of multiple stakeholders. The case of border management and fight against trafficking and smuggling was raised, as well as the due protection of rights among those who may be subjected to returns.*
- ▶ *At present, as a result of the investment by States on border management in connection with the fight against trafficking and smuggling, technological and other resources are being implemented. Likewise, increasing technological modernization at the consular level is also evidenced. Nevertheless, migration flows are ever more complex and take place with increased situations of high vulnerability. Even new criminal modalities concerning trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants have been identified. The pandemic and the resulting closure of borders have worsened such situation by promoting the use of dangerous routes. The lack of access to justice by irregular migrants is also a wake-up call, to which the constraints of consular networks to assist them are added.*
- ▶ *Within this framework, it is a priority to facilitate regular migration, safe routes and access to justice, regardless of migration status. Border management with a rights approach, capacity building for consular representations and coordination among countries are also priorities, especially to effectively address strategies aimed at preventing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (in connection with data, awareness-raising strategies, training on borders, inter-jurisdictional protocols, among others).*

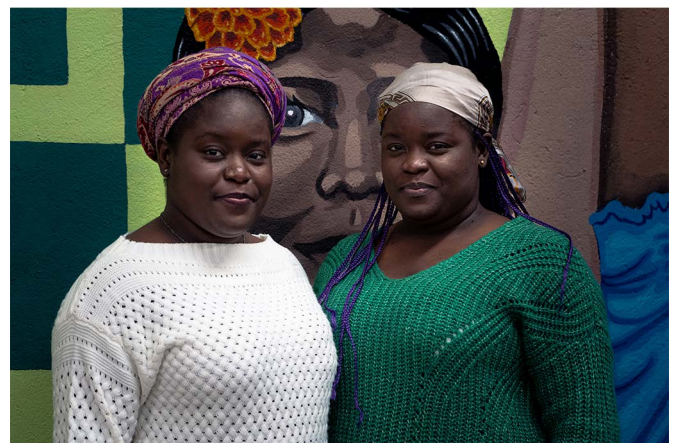
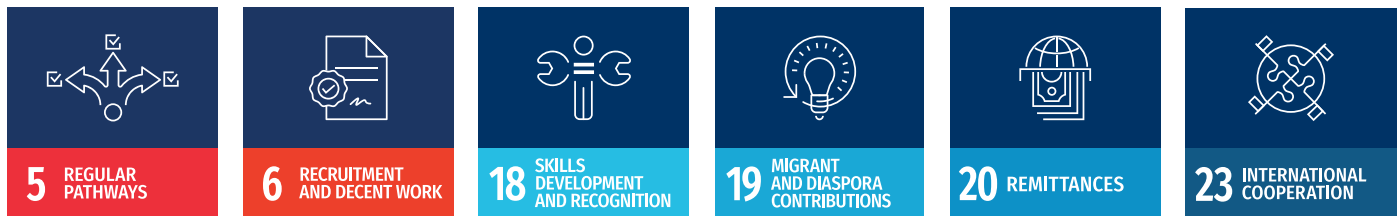


Photo by Alejandro Cartagena (IOM), 2022

2.4 Thematic area 4:

Facilitating regular migration and decent work and enhancing the positive effects of human mobility on development.



This area focuses on the objectives below:

- 5. Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.
- 6. Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work.
- 18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences.
- 19. Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.
- 20. Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants.
- 23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

2.4.1 Progress

- For over a decade now, South America has had the MERCOSUR Residence Agreement, whose efficiency has led nearly all the countries in the subregion, even those outside the economic integration zone, to become a party to it. It is a permanent mechanism, with simple and expeditious procedures, which has facilitated the mobility and settlement, within its area

of coverage, of citizens from the countries that are part of it. Some of these countries have even been able, through its enforcement, to have good governance of significant recent flows, such as the Venezuelan one, for which adjustments, which should be used for reference purposes, have been made in terms of documentation provided.

In addition, different types of resources for, generally temporary, regularisation have been put in place, with various scopes and coverages, among them:

- Special visas for some nationalities, such as Ecuador's humanitarian one for Venezuelans.
- Residence permits of various types, among which the Colombian Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelans stands out –due to the volume of people that will benefit from it and the permit duration– (see textbox 8).
- Flexibilisations in terms of the place where the visas apply and the type, amount and quality of the documentation required.
- Reduction, simplification, streamlining and virtualisation of migration formalities both inside and outside the countries of destination, frequently with lowered fees or no charges for vulnerable populations.
- Use of various mechanisms to facilitate entry into the national territory by people affected by disasters.

The regularisation processes in place appear as

2. Main findings, by thematic areas

prerequisites for decent work and the leverage of migration to sustainable human development. In addition, in the region, progress is made by countries, albeit at differing paces, on the following:

- Access of migrants to employment and job training public services, with some programmes oriented to women and young people.
- Inspection, especially by labour or migration authorities, of the recruitment of migrant workers and of the enforcement of the legislation governing it.
- Efforts for controlling private employment agencies, individual recruiters or businesspeople seeking to hire national personnel to work abroad.
- Recognition of degrees and certification of competences.

Textbox 8. Temporary Protection Status (ETP for its Spanish acronym) for Venezuelans, granted by Colombia, Decree 216 of 2021.

- *It is a mechanism defined as supplementary to the international protection regime for refugees, which makes it possible to fill the existing gaps in this regime.*
- *It was decided to create it taking into account that over 56% of Venezuelans who are in Colombia have an irregular status and understanding that such irregular status affects not only migrants, but also the country.*
- *The objective is to enable the transition of the Venezuelan migrant population which is in the country from a temporary protection scheme to an ordinary migration one, i.e., those who avail themselves of this measure will have a 10-year term to obtain a resident visa.*
- *It is addressed to:*
 - *Venezuelan migrants who are in Colombia with a regular status;*
 - *Asylum seekers;*
 - *Those who are having their visas processed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;*
 - *Venezuelans with an irregular status proving that they were in Colombia as at January 31, 2021;*
 - *Venezuelan migrants who enter the country in a regular manner for the first two years of the Status, that is, through a migration check point, with their respective Passport or authorised travel document.*

Colombian Migration Office, 2021

2. Main findings, by thematic areas

As for diasporas in the region, in the review process of the Compact, the following facts, among others, became evident:

- Existence of organisations of emigrants, generally grouped by countries of destination and countries of origin.
- Nevertheless, a global organisation of qualified Mexican migrants showed concern about the involvement of their country in knowledge transfer circuits (see textbox 9) and a global association of diaspora organisations from the CARICOM countries was reported, in which several banks have taken an interest to establish partnerships for the transfer of remittances.
- The Venezuelan migration already has organisations by countries and advanced processes of international grouping in several of them.
- Several countries have programmes aiming at engaging with the diasporas or at supporting the economic reintegration of returnees and deported persons, but they need to be framed in public policies and data collection mechanisms should be developed to nurture such policies.

Other more specific developments tend to be focused by subregions, with the engagement of diverse stakeholders, namely:

- In Central America:
 - The Central American Integration System (SICA) has a comprehensive migration plan through which efforts are coordinated to jointly address the migration issue and cause a greater impact on the most vulnerable population.
 - There are countries in the process of identifying and promoting the labour demand of the United States of America, Canada, and other countries, which makes it necessary to rethink vocational technical training. Opportunities arise in services and production, with advanced technological capacities, which may imply regular migration paths for qualified people.

- Amidst the pandemic, bilateral agreements on temporary agricultural workers and others on transport have been signed, with a positive assessment. Biosafety protocols for the protection of migrant workers have also been established.
- In Costa Rica, there is a Permanent Forum of Migrants and Refugees that gathers diverse civil society organisations and institutional representations, grouped under the leadership of the Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Costa Rica.
- As regards the union sphere, the following is in place:
 - ◇ A work agenda on fair recruitment for the entire working population, adopted by over 200 trade unions, which was adjusted to prevent COVID-19 infection.
 - ◇ National inter-union committees and a regional one (with the Dominican Republic) to defend migrant workers. Such committees have implemented plans with defined priorities.
 - ◇ Inclusion of migrant workers in the plans of a national organisation.
 - ◇ A decent work proposal for the Mexican-Guatemalan corridor, which encompasses labour migration reform and labour inspection.

- In the Caribbean:
 - Several of the countries whose income decreased due to the effects of the pandemic on tourism found compensation in the remittances of emigrants.
 - The Caribbean recognises in its diasporas important skills, particularly in some labour niches, and certain countries are very interested



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

in using them, even by means of return, for which they expressed interest in knowing regional experiences.

- o CARICOM, in particular, recognises its capacity to contribute to the development of countries. Recently, in one of them, a diaspora office aiming at promoting return was established. For these purposes, IOM's contribution was acknowledged.
 - o Free mobility agreements in the Caribbean (under CARICOM and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States - OECS) have played an important role to facilitate the cross-border displacement of disaster-affected persons.
 - o Several countries have been improving the enabling environment that stimulates increased involvement of the diaspora in economic growth and development in areas such as investment, entrepreneurship, innovation and overall business activity.
- In South America:
 - o The subregion has built, for over twenty years, with the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) at its core, a discourse on migration based on human rights and a South American nationality.
 - o In line with that discourse, several national migration laws and broad subregional mobility and residence instruments, such as those of

CAN and MERCOSUR, have been issued.

- o For MERCOSUR, the recognition of the right to migrate, the obligation to promote regularisation and access to rights regardless of migration status stand out.

- o The defined direction in these regional spaces has allowed the countries in the region to face the mass Venezuelan immigration and, to some extent, the challenges of the pandemic, arising after the adoption of the compact.

To conclude this section, it is worth noting as something positive that, during the review process, there was broad agreement on the fact that the regularisation of migrants, in addition to improving the conditions of the population and governance, has positive implications for receiving countries and, in general, does not affect the employment of nationals.

2.4.2 Situations to consider

Access to decent work by migrants is, in itself, complicated bearing in mind the high levels of labour informality in the region —levels rooted in structural situations generally associated with the characteristics of the global economy.

In general, migrants are subjected to practices of sexual division of labour in the labour markets of the countries of destination, which is why women may face, in addition, double or triple discrimination, for their status as foreigners

Textbox 9. Experience of the dissemination of diasporic knowledge of GlobalMx

- *Established in 2000, it aims at disseminating knowledge and has 6,500 members of the qualified Mexican diaspora, in 64 countries.*
- *Its work is voluntary and strengthens communities so as to solve local issues, based on their knowledge and experiences.*
- *As examples of its work, the following can be mentioned: reconstruction of classrooms following an earthquake in a Mexican region; motivation of students for research and innovation; collection of best practices to manage COVID-19, which was shared with Mexican entities; creation of an organisation to address the concerns about rights of migrants in Belgium; mentoring of women; offer of scholarships in Europe.*

2. Main findings, by thematic areas

and migrants.

Paid domestic work and care work, where there is a tendency to include women in internal and intra-regional migration processes, are characterised by precarious labour conditions (among them, long hours, low wages, lack of access to legal and social protection), which result in contexts that foster the development of abusive practices. The violation of rights is aggravated in the case of women⁵.

Members of the diaspora and returning migrants have a large amount of human, social, cultural and economic capital, which is often a contribution to their societies of origin, even as entrepreneurs and creators of jobs. Unfortunately, apart from remittances, there are few data collected on the wide array of contributions that diasporas make to their countries of origin and destination, as most States do not disaggregate data about investment, trade, tourism, and philanthropic transaction by migration status.

2.4.3 Challenges

Labour migration issues must be comprehensively and inclusively addressed, with the engagement of governments, workers and employers, as well as international agencies, the academia, and various cooperating partners.

- To this end, it is necessary to open up spaces to define labour migration policies and programmes at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels.
- As decent work and the contribution of migrants to the development of the countries of destination are boosted by regular migration, the regularisation of those who do not have such status is a fundamental public policy challenge to ensure access to rights. Such regularisation must take place according to the criteria below:

- Inclusion, protection and non-discrimination.

- By means of ordinary and permanent procedures accessible to all, equally and with affordable fees.

- As a proposal concerning the procedure for the regularisation that should take place, the UN Network on Migration, with the States and in coordination with the civil society, should prepare and promote a document with minimum standards and with a rights perspective.
- Extraordinary regularisation mechanisms should be implemented in situations of emergency and linked to ordinary procedures and durable solutions.
- Given that, in general, immigrants —and, in particular, those with an irregular status— are exposed to fraud and labour exploitation, strengthening inspection in the economic sectors where such exploitation is more frequent is a challenge. Its purpose is to protect the rights of workers and to punish their exploiters.
- Specifically, all the States should:
 - Endorse and comply with international standards on decent work and the covenant on domestic workers.
 - Enforce the Ibero-American Convention on Social Security, which, in itself, is a Latin American asset and, in general, advance regional or, at least, subregional pension and social security systems.
 - Establish development and training programmes for migrants.
 - Discourage and punish illegal private employment agencies which offer jobs to foreigners.

⁵ Some countries have not ratified ILO Convention 189, which regulates domestic work standards, in addition to the conventions on equal treatment and non-discrimination. The latter, 190, on violence in the world of work, which entered into force on June 25, 2021, has been ratified by only three countries in the region: Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay.

2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- Advance a regional system for the recognition and validation of professional degrees.
- Adopt and promote ethical recruitment of migrant workers advancing the IRIS “ethical recruitment” framework that seeks to ensure that all stakeholders in the labour migration process benefit.
- In the framework of the whole-of-society approach:
 - Action should be taken on the labour markets in the region, characterised by the centralisation of opportunities in cities, considering the professions of migrants and the needs of countries. To that end, greater engagement with local authorities and rapprochement between the State and private companies are necessary to hire migrants.
 - Organised workers, in particular, their national federations, face the following challenges:
 - ◇ Strengthening a continental trade union group on migration.
 - ◇ Promoting the ratification of ILO agreements and recommendations and other international protection instruments.
 - ◇ Guiding their affiliated organisations to offer support and assistance services.
 - ◇ Strengthening partnerships to impact migration agendas.
 - ◇ Safeguarding and ensuring the transfer of retirement and pension benefits.
 - Challenges arise for the business sector, including: Creating formal employment and building capacities.
 - ◇ Facilitating the integration of migrants in the financial field.
- ◇ Not becoming labour deregulation and flexibility bodies.
- ◇ Collaboration with workers’ organisations and professional bodies or associations should be considered so that, rather than becoming obstacles to the recognition of competences or degrees and authorisations for the performance of activities, they can facilitate the assimilation of experiences and knowledge of those who arrive.
- For jobs being demanded in the United States of America and Canada, the challenge to be competitive, not only in terms of agriculture and services, but also technological leadership, was raised. In addition, it is up to the countries in the region to establish work visas that facilitate migration among them.

In this thematic area, objectives 5, 6 and 18 are the most feasible to be promoted by means of international cooperation, particularly through bilateral and subregional agreements, and, also, enforcing the ethical recruitment principles of the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS), which provide for reciprocity.

Concerning the engagement of diasporas and return, the challenges below arise:

- Defining policies for the dialogue among those diasporas, the government and other stakeholders, including companies, in particular Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), and potential migrants, who would benefit from their information.
- In the countries where policies for the engagement with diasporas do not yet exist, or where they do exist, but have not worked properly, their creation or review should be discussed in light of other experiences of countries either inside or outside the region.
- In all cases, the dissemination of knowledge offered by qualified migrant associations should be taken advantage of.
- Efforts in these lines should be integrated in a country’s development policies, plans, programmes and strategies thus ensuring that migration becomes a win-win process.



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- Returnees should be supported for their empowerment as holders of rights so that they can reach financial self-sufficiency and social stability levels, including combating the stigma and discrimination faced by forced returnees.
- Considering the importance of partnerships among the national government, local governments, host communities and the private sector to create settings conducive to sustainable ventures, professional training and certification of competences.

For all sectors, strengthening the dynamics of the Compact's review process is a challenge, in addition to maintaining communication and holding other encounters to continue making progress. Thus, everyone will be able to impact policies and monitoring processes. The mutual acknowledgment of stakeholders and the acknowledgment of migrants as persons and not as property would serve as a basis.

Concerning remittances and for the purposes of causing the greatest impact possible on families, communities and receiving countries, actions must be oriented to:

- Facilitating the provision of services for sending and delivering remittances.
- Preventing collusion among providers by means of clear and updated information.
- Reducing transfer costs, with the disaggregation of components, for the main remittance agents.
- Promoting financial education and inclusion for migrants and families receiving remittances so as to facilitate their better administration.
- When the volume of remittances, as in the case of some Caribbean islands, is too small to enable a profitable operation by private agents, alternatives should be considered. In the case of CARICOM, the interest of banks in the mobilisation of resources of diasporas should be taken into account, as mentioned above.

The financial inclusion of irregular immigrants depends on the availability of identification documents accepted by local financial and regulatory institutions, if applicable.

Depending on the circumstances, the governments of origin or destination should follow some procedures and, possibly, regulatory adjustments should be made. In this regard, it is worth examining the process that has, in some places, led to the acceptance of consular registration cards as identification before banks.

Generally speaking, States should guide their migration and development policies and programmes with the following criteria:

- Placing human rights at the core.
- Creating regular and protected migration pathways.
- Recognising the right to shelter.
- Preventing irregular child migration.
- Offering durable social protections, which are sensitive to differences, so that people are not compelled to migrate.
- In addition, in terms of environmental migration, actions for the prevention, regeneration and mitigation of climate change should be focused on.

Solutions adequate for people who leave their communities in contexts of disasters, environmental degradation and adverse effects of climate change should be found. This approach includes processes for the planned relocation of populations, which have been explored by the countries in the region, at varying success rates.

Regarding the pandemic and its resulting mobility constraints, several urgent challenges arise:

- Establishing asylum seeking mechanisms on the border.
- Regularising those who migrated during this period.
- Not carrying out summary expulsions.
- Ensuring the rights of migrants, regardless of their migration status, including access to health care and vaccination.
- First and foremost, not moving backwards in terms of the potential progress on migration governance with a rights approach.



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

2.4.4 Highlights

- ▶ Several actions to safeguard the rights of migrant persons were identified. For example, the inclusion of migrants in COVID-19 vaccination campaigns, regardless of their migratory status.
- ▶ Regional agreements and diverse regularisation strategies were identified at the national level. In effect, they are policies enabling decent work and they are fundamental on the path towards socioeconomic integration. Specific policies for labour inclusion and access to rights are also making progress, but at uneven rates.
- ▶ Nevertheless, access to decent work is complex for migrants, who, in addition to informality, are affected by the sexual division of labour, which leads women to the care economy and domestic service work, and thus to precarious working conditions.
- ▶ In this scenario, it is a priority to address labour migration with a human rights approach so as to reflect the critical importance of participation and to manage to summon all the relevant stakeholders (State, private sector, migrants, trade unions, among others) to design inclusive employability policies placing value on the contributions by migrant communities to sustainable development.
- ▶ As with thematic area 1, it is worth valuing the evidence of the contributions which migrants make to the countries of origin and destination, and which are enhanced in regular migration and labour conditions. They include contribution to the expansion of the internal market; resulting creation of new jobs; role as taxpayers; rejuvenation of the workforce; and contributions to social security systems. It is also of utmost importance to identify the qualitative contributions of migration which relate, for example, to cultural exchanges, diversity practices and habits, new job skills, and comprehensive education.

- ▶ The international cooperation on this matter will also be important (regional social security systems, validation of degrees, development programmes, financial policies for remittances, among others).



Photo by Patty Brito on Unsplash, 2021

2.5 Thematic area 5: Improving social inclusion and integration of the migrant population



This area can be seen as what the overall conclusion of migration processes should be for their direct stakeholders: people integrated in the societies of destination, enjoying broad advantages and guarantees, in keeping with the contribution that they make to them. The following objectives apply to it:

- 4. Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.
- 15. Provide access to basic services for migrants.
- 16. Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.
- 22. Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits.
- 23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

2.5.1 Progress

Concerning the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits, several countries noted the existence of bilateral agreements or stated being a party to the Ibero-American Multilateral Convention on Social Security (see textbox 10), considered in the First Regional Report on the Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development as “the most important example of the progress made [with respect to this measure]” (ECLAC, 2019a: 145). As a complement, some countries give their nationals abroad the possibility to continue contributing to their national pension system. In the south of the region, reference is made to MERCOSUR's Social Security Multilateral Agreement.

Textbox 10. Ibero-American Multilateral Convention on Social Security

The Ibero-American Multilateral Convention on Social Security is the first international instrument at the Ibero-American level that protects the rights of millions of migrant workers, their families and workers of multinationals in terms of economic benefits, by means of coordinating national legislations on pensions, as a guarantee of income security in old age, disability or death, protected under the Social Security schemes of the various Ibero-American States.

After years of work and with the adoption by the 5th Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Social Security of Ibero-American countries, held in Segovia, Spain, in 2005, and the agreements of the Ibero-American Summits of Heads of State and Government: the 15th one in Salamanca (2005) and the 16th one in Montevideo (2006), the Ibero-American Social Security Organization (OISS) and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) submitted the text of the Multilateral Convention to the 6th Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Social Security, held in Iquique in 2007, which unanimously adopted it and, in turn, submitted it to the Heads of State and Government at the 17th Ibero-American Summit in Santiago de Chile, in November, 2007, which also adopted it unanimously.

This achievement will instil into millions of people in the region a sense of belonging to an own Community and will enable an approach to the notion of Ibero-American citizenship.

Source: <https://oiss.org/convenio-multilateral/que-es/>

As for the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, it is considered, along with the Sustainable Development Goals and their 2030 Agenda, as instruments leading to rethink the public governance required for sustainable development and, consequently, to innovate the way in which public matters are managed. In that sense, they are seen as closely linked to the Compact and as key items to fulfil its objectives.

Concerning identity for immigrants with a regular status or whose regularity is being processed, efforts are being made in the countries of destination to timely provide the corresponding identification documents.

For migrant nationals, particularly those with an irregular status, the following situations apply:

- Delivery of consular registration cards which somewhat ease the situation and enable them, for instance, to complete bank formalities.
- There is an increasing number of countries making efforts to facilitate the formalities to obtain the required documentation, such as criminal records or birth certificates, for regularisation processes.

Actions to fight statelessness, expressed in the existence and enforcement of general laws or ad hoc procedures for populations at risk of statelessness, are also reported.

Some States and other stakeholders are starting to develop new narratives around migration, showing its contribution to the societies of origin and destination, and as an opportunity for the latter, rather than a problem.

As for the private sector, the following has been stated:

- Incorporation of the talent of Venezuelans for oil production, where their techniques have been used. In general, they are considered to be highly skilled. That engagement has been beneficial both for immigrants and the productive sector.
- As a particular case, the promotion of coffee harvesting in Colombia by Venezuelans is mentioned.
- Understanding immigration as a generator of new supplies and demands of goods and services, which represent opportunities for businesspeople and

2. Main findings, by thematic areas

contribute to the economic dynamics of countries.

- An inclusive supply connecting the companies of an association with migrants and encouraging them to demand their products and services.
- Union policy for inclusive employment, through which migrants are incorporated into labour.

To facilitate the integration of migrants, in receiving countries, bodies, resources and actions are available, such as:

- Employment agencies.
- Integration plans.
- Increased offices for labour and social affairs.
- Supply of services in languages other than a country's official one.
- Projects from host communities, like cities of solidarity.
- New regularisation categories.
- National plans on the right to health care involving immigrants.
- Processes in the territories:
 - Work with young people.
 - Programmes to offer opportunities.
 - Information and awareness-raising campaigns.

In one case, it was stated that, in spite of the difficulties brought about by the pandemic, the inclusion processes were not affected, and that health care was regularised and strengthened, in addition to initiatives aimed at protecting children and adolescents. This was achieved by involving the entire population and establishing partnerships with the private sector and the civil society. Complementarily, it is beginning to be seen that efforts are better perceived and result in fewer reactions towards migrants when the population of receiving communities is also included as a beneficiary.

A country with recent immigration created an industrial training office dedicated not only to training migrants, but also to their coaching and the validation and recognition of their degrees. It also established specific programmes for migrant women, aimed at their job training and at supporting businesses and their own and their children's education.

Legal reforms to eradicate the detention of children and their families were announced. In addition, legislative initiatives for integration and the existence of several coordination bodies were reported, such as:

- Technical committee to address trafficking in persons.
- National migration council, with the engagement of the civil society.
- Inter-ministerial commission for migrants, with assistance on borders.

A national statistical institute increased its capacity and budget to be able to face the greater requirements associated with migration. Information-related progress was also reported, including a system that collects social data and makes it possible to work on social inclusion policies and on the preparation of cooperation projects.

2.5.2 Situations to consider

As for access to basic services, in general, the constitutions and higher laws of the countries provide for it for the entire population, without exceptions. However, in many cases, representatives of those countries state that it is restricted or has significant constraints based on a person's migration status. Even when such right is explicitly defined for those with an irregular status, the documentation requirements or the decisions of officers responsible for service provision prevent or hinder their access.

The border closure associated with the pandemic led to the unregistered entry of migrants whose status was irregular from that very moment, with the aggravating circumstance of experiencing difficulties to participate in possible regularisation processes.



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

Many immigrants, especially the non-regularised ones, have been excluded from aid programmes during the pandemic and, in several cases, from the medical care related to it (testing, vaccination and treatment) as well.

Some programmes for the integration of migrants were affected by the diversion of resources to other pandemic-related requirements, which impacted their implementation, as they needed to be executed in a limited manner, with cooperation resources.

To showcase the early outcomes of the review process and to denote its practical potential, the representative of one of the small countries stated the need for other countries – more experienced in managing the internal coordination of migration issues, which is still lacking in his country- to share their knowledge. In addition, this representative expressed his country's interest to know the experiences of others concerning bilateral migration commitments, and the need to stay in touch with other States and to know other practices.

2.5.3 Challenges

Considering the relationship between inclusion and migration status:

- It is an essential challenge to establish permanent or long-term regularisation channels, with simple procedures and requirements that facilitate it.
- In agreement with the foregoing, countries of origin should offer efficient consular documentation services and services to obtain or renew passports for nationals abroad.
- The management time for migration permits should be reduced and, where circumstances warrant, expired documents to complete formalities should be accepted, as is already done by some countries.
- At least, while their status is being regularised and by means of ad hoc transition mechanisms, immigrants should be ensured the possibility to work without

being harassed by authorities, and care should be taken to prevent their labour exploitation. There are no winners if they are deprived of the possibility to secure their livelihoods.

Beyond any difficulty, the incorporation of immigrants in the social protection systems should be promoted. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen international management to advance the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits, starting by increasing the ratification level of the Ibero-American Convention on Social Security and considering the possibility of bilateral agreements with or among countries that are not party to it. Strategies aimed at going from formal portability to the concrete enforceability of rights, including old-age pension systems, should be determined.

As for the 2030 Agenda, which was mentioned in the process, it seems clear that it should be noted that, in the long term and with the “no one will be left behind” perspective, work must be done with universal social protection as an objective. It is understood that this will not be accomplished as long as the immigrant population in each country, regardless of migration status, is not covered.

For the integration (not assimilation) of migrants in general, the following is required:

- Providing enjoyment of all human rights, including family unit, with a gender approach.
- Access to justice as regards the fulfilment of rights.
- Services of information in their languages and knowing their cultural particularities.
- As short-term challenges associated with the foregoing, the following arises:
 - Awareness raising and training for officials at the operational level in connection with the rights of migrants and the prohibition of any form of discrimination against them.



2. Main findings, by thematic areas

- o Regulation adjustments making it possible to provide such services to all migrants, regardless of their migration status.
- o In the pandemic, it is evident that access to treatments and vaccination must be ensured, in the same conditions as the rest of the population for the well-being of all persons (migrants and host communities).

To improve labour integration, the following is raised —with the involvement of employers, workers and other relevant stakeholders of the civil society:

- Ensuring the right to equality in the labour force in relation to national workers.
- Facilitating the certification and recognition of labour experiences and competences and knowledge, as well as the validation of academic degrees. In this regard, coordination between public entities and countries to simplify and speed up requirements is urgently needed.
- Inventorying the trades and businesses of migrants to be queried by potential seekers.
- Facilitating their inclusion in public employment services.

The full integration of women and the social inclusion of *migrants, regardless of their gender identity and sexual orientation*, should exceed the formal statements of gender perspective or equity and of a few specific programmes or projects “for women” or “for sexual minorities”.

- There should be a true mainstreaming of a gender equity approach that considers that every action without such equity may result in discrimination and inequalities, as each sexual identity has differentiated demands and needs.

- Additionally, it should be considered that there are increased risks against autonomy and specific violence against migrant women and persons with diverse gender identities.

Other related challenges which were raised in the process were as follows:

- Enhancing data so that they may enable the location of persons (and their needs) in the field.
- Not allowing for the cross-checking of information between service provision entities and migration control agencies, so as not to hinder the access to such services by irregular migrants.
- Positioning public discourses with positive narratives around migration, including their promotion in the media.
- Considering the positive aspects of the integration processes carried out in the cities of São Paulo and Montevideo.
- Implementing indicators and their systems enabling the establishment of programmes for monitoring and assessing integration processes⁶.
- Providing (at least humanitarian) assistance, safety and respect for rights to the flows of migrants, with various origins and destinations, who are frequently seen crossing the region.

⁶ At a global level, the IOM has developed an index with indicators and specific data collection tools that should be considered by countries. Further information at: <https://www.integrationindex.org/>

2.5.4 Highlights

- ▶ *The dialogue made it possible to identify progress not only in terms of bilateral and regional frameworks for public governance, but also of specific documentation related policies as a strategy to ensure access to rights and policies for labour inclusion. However, permanent regularisation, an inexorable requirement for inclusion, remains a challenge.*
- ▶ *It is a priority to assess the good practices for integration developed in several countries and, if necessary, to adapt them to the circumstances and implement them, with the commitment of subnational and, in particular, local authorities. Such practices should be made a part of their public policies, including the host communities, which should also feel benefited, thus preventing the promotion of xenophobic feelings.*
- ▶ *There is an overall need for partnerships with the civil society and cooperating institutions; the former would also contribute to the fight against xenophobia. The private sector, for its part, cannot be excluded from labour integration policies.*
- ▶ *The greatest expectations of international cooperation, as mentioned, would lie in the financial support, while, in terms of the relationship with other countries, the interest would be focused on institutional coordination actions. The convenience of creating inter-institutional connection focal points was expressed by the private sector.*
- ▶ *Finally, concerning the gender approach, its effective mainstreaming in the designed policies is a priority.*



Photo by Angela Wells (IOM), 2019

3. Integrating the vision and guiding principles in the implementation of the GCM from the perspective of States

The Global Compact is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles. Despite the number of variables and interests to be addressed, in the review process, the multiple institutional stakeholders generally and formally stated compliance with the cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles in the GCM implementation. This commitment responds to the fact that most of these principles come from a historic tradition of modern States and the Global Compact integrated them. Each country might want to assess the coherence between the formal acceptance and their practical implementation, especially in those cases where reports suggest some shortfalls.

3.1 People-centred



In general, the priority interest in serving a country's immigrant or emigrant population is evident. In some cases, this interest is considered a need and in others, an obligation or aspiration. Actions in favor of nationals abroad at the center include:

- Assistance funds for special cases of vulnerability; support programmes for returnees.

- Programmes for bonding with the country.
- Training for officials to identify migrants in vulnerable situations and providing basic assistance.
- Policies and plans relating to the following:
 - o Comprehensive assistance to people on the move and guarantees of the well-being of all migrants.
 - o Providing access to services for migrants.
 - o Supporting the diaspora.
 - o Assistance of Venezuelan migrants.

3.2 International cooperation



References were made to international cooperation as an expression of solidarity, but its exercise was also called for as part of the shared responsibilities and duties of States. On this matter, there were complaints about the reduced international response to the Venezuelan migration, compared to other situations, such as those of the Syrian Arab Republic and Myanmar.

3. Integrating the vision and guiding principles in the implementation of the GCM from the perspective of States

- The importance of international cooperation on migration issues was widely recognised as a condition for success in achieving country objectives. Statements in that sense were, for example, the following:
 - Support of the international community is essential; international partnerships are paramount.
 - We adhere to the Global Compact to seek multilateral cooperation responses to migration challenges.
 - We cannot do this on our own.
 - Experiences of and demands for bilateral and multilateral cooperation among countries and with cooperation organisations were mentioned. Among them, the following were discussed:
 - Cooperation with countries of destination to identify regular migration possibilities.
 - The *Suramérica Abierta* portal, in the framework of the SACM.
 - Bilateral measures among countries in the region to improve the cooperation and migration policy systems.
 - A large part of the international cooperation comments or demands referred to economic resources. An example given was the donor meeting of the Quito Process. Demands for project financing were also mentioned. A country reported the preparation of a portfolio, but considered that the aid received had been insufficient.
 - Smaller countries or with new migration issues considered important that other countries in the region share their experiences with them, especially in terms of coordination of migration affairs, trafficking, remittances, engagement with diasporas, and return.
 - Humanitarian assistance by cooperation bodies was deemed important, but it was suggested that such assistance have a broader scope so as to promote the integration of migrants.
 - The solidarity and humanitarian assistance provided by the neighbouring countries of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the people who needed to leave the country because of the eruption of the La Soufrière volcano were mentioned.
 - A country asserted being a victim of international practices fostering emigration from its territory, draining its best capacities and hindering the transfer of remittances from its migrants.
 - Another country asked for a comprehensive cooperation approach, including by countries with which it claimed to have unsuccessfully tried to dialogue and cooperate.
 - Special comments were made on the regional consultative processes as cooperation spaces, as well as the regional plans arising from them and further settings, such as the subregional integration bodies.
 - The Comprehensive Development Plan for Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras was mentioned in a positive manner.
 - Other specific demands for international cooperation mentioned were:
 - Financing for long-term integration initiatives in order for regularisation to succeed.
 - For Central America, cooperation was required to address caravans.
- A significant number of countries explicitly acknowledged the cooperation of United Nations agencies, with an emphasis on the country-level networks coordinated by IOM with the support of other agencies. References to the specific support received included:
- Support to build and strengthen relationships with UN agencies.
 - Technology to manage border crossing points.
 - Regional plans.
 - National policy formulation advisory support.
 - Preparation of migration profiles.
 - Establishment of inter-agency committees.
 - Migration governance indicators.
 - Refugee protection.

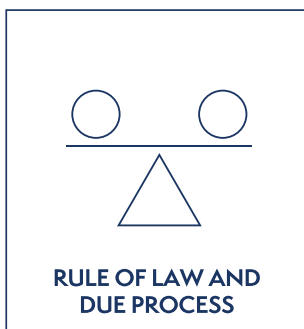
3. Integrating the vision and guiding principles in the implementation of the GCM from the perspective of States

3.3 National sovereignty



No explicit comments were made on the sovereign right of States to determine their admission conditions and define their migration policies.

3.4 Rule of law and due process



Countries asserted that they address migration issues within a legal framework. In several cases those are general laws on migration granting rights to migrants, though limited to those with a regular status. Countries reported on differentiated regularization processes, which have benefited or will benefit significant migrant populations. There were no specific statements about due process for migrants.

Nevertheless, as stated in section 2.2.1, participants reported a predominance of national security policies, combined with criminalisation of migration law violations, detentions without trial, expulsions, exercise of violence and new forms of prejudice, including institutional, against migrants.

3.5 Sustainable development



A significant number of countries explicitly acknowledged the capacity of migrants to contribute to sustainable development or development. However, countries warned about the impact due to “unmanaged migration”. One country emphasized the need for regularisation to leverage migrants’ contribution.

Several countries also acknowledged the potential of their diaspora. In this regard, countries mentioned programmes for diasporas engagement and mobilisation and for attracting returnees. This seemed to be more important in small countries with high rates of emigrants. One of the countries asserted that it saw the future of its development in the diaspora. Additionally, participants commented on the need to link the potential of migration with the realisation of the 2030 Agenda.

3.6 Human rights



Comments referred to the importance of guaranteeing the rights of migrants. In some cases, existing constraints were mentioned, especially for migrants with irregular status. Nevertheless, others spoke about the principle of enjoyment of rights for all migrants on an equal basis with the national population, as provided for in the constitution or migration laws prior to the Global Compact.

In addition, there were declarations of commitment to respecting and protecting the rights of migrants. Countries highlighted progress or intentions to make progress on access to services by migrants —a practical expression of the fulfilment of some rights. References were made to good national practices to ensure and protect the rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Some countries also referred to their commitments to protect the rights of their respective diasporas.

Countries, particularly those with regularisation processes underway, discussed regularisation as a prerequisite for the effective enjoyment of many rights, regardless of the legal recognition of equality. A link between regularisation and integration with equality was established.

The comprehensive nature of rights was mentioned, while stressing the commitment to specific rights and related actions with the migrant population as a whole or with groups of migrants among which Venezuelans stood out. Labour, health care, education and housing rights were also referred to.

3.7 Gender-responsive



Some countries made explicit declarations about their commitment to a gender perspective in the implementation of the Global Compact. They referred to it in the overall protection of the rights of migrants, particularly in the workplace. Countries mentioned the existence of protocols specialising in assisting returnee women and of front desk services for women.

In addition, participants reported training for officials on border check points to identify vulnerable migrants with a gender approach. Very little mention was made specifically about the LGTBQ+ population. So doubts remain as to whether in some cases the gender perspective declared only refers to men-women relationships.

3.8 Child-sensitive



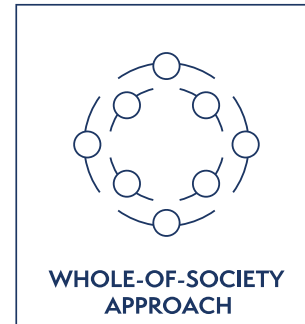
A large part of the national delegations reflected this perspective in their presentations by referring to children and adolescents and associated it with a gender perspective. Participants made references to: unaccompanied children; special categorisation in the educational system; refoulement from the United States of America border; assistance programmes; training for border officials to identify populations in vulnerable situation; and assistance protocol.

3.9 Whole-of-government approach



Even though country reports drew on a whole-of-government approach, there were few references to this approach. One of them talked about the existence of an ad hoc inter-institutional committee to deal with flows, monitor and respond to assistance needs. Another one talked about the existence of inter-institutional work coordinated with the civil society.

3.10 Whole-of-society approach



The number of references to this principle was moderate but sufficient to show that it is considered in the region. The expressions in the speeches suggest various approaches or understandings: collaborative work involving the civil society; inter-institutional work coordinated with the civil society; commitment by all sectors; States cannot do this on their own; seeking for consensual solutions based on the Global Compact objectives; commitment to the inclusion of all sectors, especially the most vulnerable ones.

In one case, a country provided more details about the type of partnerships sought and its modus operandi: A refugee committee with representatives from companies and churches plans to integrate the private sector and public figures in a dialogue concerning migration.



4. Conclusions and recommendations for implementation and for a future regional review

4.1 Conclusions

The Global Compact was recognised as a highly relevant framework by the various stakeholders participating in the review process and, as a result, they renewed their commitment to its fulfilment.

With varying degrees, States acknowledged and committed to all the guiding principles of the Global Compact. In contrast, the civil society showed particular interest in some of them: people-centredness, international cooperation, human rights, gender perspective, child-sensitive perspective, and whole-of-society approach.

There were widespread declarations of political will to advance the fulfilment of the Global Compact, as well as readiness to cooperate. Consensus in this regard was not affected by some political differences among the countries and did not interfere with the development of the process.

The Global Compact was broadly recognised for addressing migration comprehensively and as a relevant framework for migration management. It opens the door

to required, essential cooperation, given the different types of constraints (economic, administrative capacity, human resources, among others) confronted by countries.

According to the cooperating partners, the main opportunities and expectations on migration cooperation that were stated in the region throughout the process are the following:

- Countries with a high income and inter-governmental organizations with cooperation capacity: Financial resources and coordinated efforts, long-term projects for development and mainstreaming of migration in countries of origin and destination, and support for national projects geared towards that direction⁷.
- Bilateral or multilateral cooperation among countries: Exchange of experiences and transfer of knowledge, unity of action, frequent exchange of information, support on common migration affairs, and joint plans⁸.
- Subregional integration bodies: Plans and actions in their jurisdictions, resource management, dialogue and training.

⁷ In this regard, it is worth recalling the United Nations multi-partner trust fund to support the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. This Fund is a financing mechanism primarily to assist Member States in their implementation of the GCM. It is accessed through the United Nations national networks for migration (<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/mptf>).

⁸ Concerning this item and the previous one, the United Nations Network on Migration has a hub (<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/hub>) enabling access to various useful resources to work on the fulfillment of the Compact. One of these resources is that of “champion countries”, which are Member States who lead by example for the implementation of the Compact. They receive dedicated briefings and specific support from the Network, and also meet periodically to empower one another through sharing their experiences, key insights, lessons learned, and positive practices (<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/champion-countries-initiative>). Additionally, IOM has the Regional Knowledge Hub on Migration (<https://kmhub.iom.int/en>), which is a platform that allows easy access to relevant and useful information on human mobility in the region of Central America, North America and the Caribbean.

4. Conclusions and recommendations for implementation and for a future regional review

- Regional consultative processes: Plans and promotion for action in their jurisdictions; dialogue and coordination among them, particularly between the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) and the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM); subregional and regional plans.

The participation of the United States of America in the meeting and the positive spirit that it showed in connection with migration issues were especially significant. This is an important and key fact given the United States of America's relevance as a destination country for migrants in the region and its interest in topics such as Central American caravans, unaccompanied children and adolescents, among other topics, in addition to its membership in the RCM.

The participation of Canada has a special connotation as well as it is a champion country, a member country of the RCM, and a significant destination for migrants in the region. Canada showed willingness to support regional tasks, among them, the management of gender issues in migration, on which it has made progress that it is willing to share. This support was reflected with the side event Gender-Responsive Approaches to Migration: the Global Compact for Migration as a Guiding Framework. The recording can be found at <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/country-regional-network/latin-america-caribbean>.

The COVID 19 pandemic altered agendas and aggravated the situation of migrants and their communities. This, along with the short time since the adoption of the GCM, impacted advancement of the Global Compact implementation by countries, even though some of them reported significant positive events.

- However, the existence of regional and subregional inter-governmental platforms and processes showed strength and potential for fostering joint progress within those frameworks.

- The willingness of a significant and diverse number of civil society entities to coordinate their efforts with countries, international cooperation agencies and the United Nations system must also be added.

It is worth mentioning that there are significantly different conditions among countries in the region in terms of the full realisation of the Global Compact objectives. The situation of champion countries (Colombia, Costa Rica⁹, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico) was positively noted.

- Nevertheless, this asymmetry, along with the varying experiences and situations that shape it, represent a significant accumulation on the way towards such objectives and a very solid basis to move forward.
- Despite its limitations, progress at national level, including that initiated before the Global Compact, involve a considerable set of experiences. To the extent that they are shared, those experiences entail an enormous potential to achieve the objectives of the Global Compact in the region at all levels, from the local level upwards.

Special mention was made of the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico (PDI in Spanish). With the support of the United Nations and other stakeholders, among other purposes, the PDI aims at addressing the structural causes of migration.

Participants widely recognized the United Nations System work in migration, expressed in the Regional UN Network on Migration co-led by IOM and ECLAC. Together with networks at the national and global levels, they constitute an important asset to support the implementation of the Global Compact.

⁹ Costa Rica was confirmed as a champion country in November 2021.

4.2 Recommendations

The recommendations below apply to all the topics, particularly in terms of their link with the rights of migrants:

- Developing evidence-based national and regional doctrine, founded on data about the impact of policies, actions, and judicial decisions.
- Training officials on interacting with migrants in all contexts, starting from those in charge of border control.
- More consistent strategies are needed to monitor progress and setbacks in the fulfilment of the rights of migrants.
- It is necessary to have a system of indicators to measure such progress and potential setbacks. Developing that system would be an opportunity for regional integration in the area.

Different topics were assigned different levels of importance, depending on the countries' availability of resources. This should be considered particularly when it comes to international cooperation.

- Some countries, including several island states, have a particular need of intra-regional technical cooperation, especially in terms of transferring knowledge and learning from other countries.
- It should be a regional priority, the dissemination of good experiences to countries with fewer achievements in each objective. In this regard, countries who have made advances in the implementation of the Global Compact can share their best practices as concrete examples that can support countries that need to accelerate their progress.

It will also be necessary to work intensively to involve

stakeholders other than governments, in particular migrant organisations, organisations that assist migrants, human rights advocates, employers, workers' organisations, academia, among others, and to make the best use of their capacities to advance the Global Compact.

To facilitate the future regional reviews and to be able to measure progress in implementing the Global Compact and advancement on objectives, it is advisable that all countries use the Migration Governance Indicators (MGIs) (<https://www.migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi#0>).

The sections on "challenges" and "situations to consider" in this report contain ideas that governments can use to reflect upon and define future actions to advance the implementation of the Global Compact.

UN Networks on Migration at the regional and national levels should continue to play a crucial role, and efforts should be made to strengthening them and for each and every member agency, fund and programme to commit to them. For an effective and efficient Global Compact implementation, follow-up and review, the United Nations should privilege the work and coordination with multilateral and collective stakeholders (integration mechanisms, forums, networks, parliament organisations, prosecutors' offices, multilateral financial institutions, among others).

The inclusion of civil society and other relevant stakeholders—in particular, migrant organisations, aid entities and academia, which showed huge potential to contribute—must be met at all levels, for which coordination mechanisms are required.

The work with academia, due to its nature, requires very specific efforts that could be explored with the Latin American Population Association (ALAP).

Migrants make significant contributions to their communities and countries of destination. Migration is a key component of the development of a country. If migrants could benefit on a more equitable basis, it would



4. Conclusions and recommendations for implementation and for a future regional review

be better for their families and communities of origin and destination.

No country or stakeholder can address migration alone; each part has a role to play. It is fundamental to develop a comprehensive and regional approach with shared priorities that facilitate a coordinated and concrete implementation of the Global Compact.

Latin America and the Caribbean face several migration challenges, but these must be confronted with optimism, knowing that there are also many opportunities especially if work is based on the Global Compact and its call to work together for a safe, orderly and regular migration.

The Global Compact, with its 23 objectives and 10 guiding principles, offers a framework, a guidance and a common language to optimize the benefits of migration, address its risks and challenges, contribute to protecting and improving the lives of migrants and their families and communities in countries of origin, transit, destination and return, strengthen the contributions of migration to sustainable development, and guarantee that no one is left behind.



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Annex 1. Concept note. Regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (May 2020)

United Nations Network on Migration-IOM-ECLAC

Concept note. Regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (May 2020)

(October 2020)

This concept note aims at defining the modalities for the process and meeting of the Regional Review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean for relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organisations, and relevant stakeholders acting at the regional level.

Background

In its Resolution 73/326 on the format and organisational aspects of the international migration review forums, the General Assembly requested the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration (the Network), to assist, upon request by Member States, in the preparation and organisation of regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact.

Framework for the Regional Review process and meeting

The IOM, as Coordinator of the Network, and ECLAC, in collaboration with all the other members of the Network, propose that Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as relevant stakeholders, review the Global Compact at a regional level. On the one hand, ECLAC has convening power and wide experience of promoting regional dialogue on public policies with multiple stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean. On the other, the IOM has an extensive presence in the countries in the region and provides technical assistance to several regional processes and initiatives. Network agencies will make technical and substantive contributions in line with their purpose to provide effective, timely and coordinated support from the entire United Nations system to Member States in the implementation of the Global Compact. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Review will:

1. Allow governments and stakeholders to make the first assessment of the progress made on the implementation of the Global Compact.

2. Serve as a forum where challenges and opportunities will be highlighted, difficulties will be identified, regional priorities will be examined, and needs for resources will be determined for the implementation of the Global Compact.
3. Provide a common platform for the interaction among all relevant stakeholders, the exchange of experiences and best practices, and the promotion of learning among peers in the region, taking advantage of other coordination processes in the region that may enrich the review of the Global Compact.
4. Facilitate the formulation of the main conclusions and recommendations to report to the 2022 International Migration Review Forum.
5. Consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the Global Compact.

Considering that most international migration takes place within regions, in paragraph 50 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration¹⁰, relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, and stakeholders at the regional level, are invited to “review the implementation of the Global Compact within the respective regions, beginning in 2020”.

In keeping with these guidelines, the process of Regional Review of the Global Compact on Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean provides for the involvement of multiple social stakeholders, with particular emphasis on the participation of the civil society.

Preparatory process

To prepare for the Regional Review meeting, the Network will gather the contributions of relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organisations, and relevant stakeholders, including the following:

- Providing online discussion platforms;
- Facilitating their participation with an online questionnaire¹¹, through which information is obtained from each institution/organisation interested in reporting on the implementation process of the Global Compact in the corresponding countries;
- Ensuring the meaningful participation of stakeholders ¹²;
- Gathering all the inputs received at the local, national, regional and global levels, and making them available on the global knowledge platform, as well as any other documentation supporting the regional reviews.

Date and venue of the Regional Review meeting

The Regional Review meeting will take place on two days in the week of March 22, 2021. In view of the COVID 19 pandemic, the virtual meeting modality is likely to be used.

Organisation

- So as to facilitate the contribution of the Regional Review to the 2022 International Migration Review Forum, the organisation of the Regional Review meeting in Latin America and the Caribbean will follow, in general, the organisation of the International Migration Review Forum . If it is decided that the meeting should be held online, the format will be adapted to this new modality. In particular:
- The review will offer a debate space encompassing the 23 objectives of the Global Compact, considering that it is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent

¹⁰ Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on December 19, 2018 (A/RES/73/195), paragraph 50.

¹¹ To access the online questionnaire: https://iom.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aXH30seDxj9yVlr.

¹² Including migrants, civil society, youth and diaspora organisations, religious organisations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers’ and workers’ organisations, and unions.

¹³ See <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/supporting-material-regional-reviews>.

guiding principles. To this end, five thematic round tables will be organised (see Annex 1), encompassing the 23 objectives, taking into account, at the same time, the regional specificities and priorities, including the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic.

- The members of the Network, in agreement with their mandates and fields of competence, will collaborate to support the Member States in the five thematic areas. Preparatory sessions will be held before the regional review meeting with the support of the Network members and the participation of Member States.
- When selecting key note speakers, panellists and moderators, due attention will be paid to geographical, demographical and gender balance, so as to include all the governmental levels and the entire society.
- The modalities will allow for a significant participation of the civil society and other stakeholders, as well as the relevant subregional, regional and transregional processes, platforms and organisations.
- The meeting debates will be interactive, based on empirical evidence and action-oriented, and will include a policy debate focused on the regional challenges for the implementation of the Global Compact, with links to international human rights standards, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other regional frameworks, the capacity building mechanism, and the existing and emerging issues related to the migration dynamics in the region.
- Members of the Network are invited to collaborate with the preparation of the review, by making contributions to the background documents and concept notes on inter-sectoral matters, the organisation of work, the dissemination among stakeholders and the preparation of the agenda, including the list of guest panellists and moderators, as well as by facilitating the participation of representatives of least developed countries, in particular developing landlocked countries, and other relevant stakeholders.

Report

- The final document of the Regional Review meeting will be a report summarising all the contributions received so as to determine the issues and priorities of regional importance and to prepare the road map for regional collaboration and action with a view to the subsequent implementation of the Global Compact. The report (to be produced in

Spanish and English) should:

- Be completed within two months from the meeting.
- Be posted by the Network on the corresponding website.
- Include the following sections:
 - a) Introduction (with a regional Overview and background).
 - b) Executive summary.
 - c) Main conclusions.
 - d) Selection of good practices and experiences gained in the region.
 - e) Challenges and opportunities.
 - f) Conclusions and recommendations for implementation and for a future regional review.
 - g) Annex detailing the organisation of work and the list of participants.

Follow-up

- The final document of the Regional Review will report to the 2022 International Migration Review Forum, in particular, the progress of the tasks agreed upon at an inter-governmental level, which may be reviewed at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Annex 1 to the concept note

List of objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration by thematic area

The United Nations multi-partner trust fund to support the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, a basic element of the capacity-building mechanism of the Network, groups the 23 objectives of the Global Compact in five thematic areas to facilitate adherence to the 360 degree vision of the Global Compact. The thematic areas and corresponding objectives of the Global Compact are as follows:



<p>Thematic areas of the United Nations multi-partner trust fund to support the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</p>	<p>Objectives of the Global Compact</p>
<p>Thematic area 1 Promoting a migration discourse, policies and planning based on facts and data.</p>	<p>1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.</p> <p>3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration.</p> <p>17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.</p> <p>23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.</p>
<p>Thematic area 2 Protecting the human rights, safety and well-being of migrants, among other things, by means of addressing factors of vulnerability in migration and mitigating vulnerability situations</p>	<p>2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.</p> <p>7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.</p> <p>8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants.</p> <p>12. Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral.</p> <p>13. Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives.</p> <p>23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.</p>



Thematic area 3 Addressing irregular migration, even by means of border management and fight against transnational crime	9. Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants.
	10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration.
	11. Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner.
	14. Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle.
	21. Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration.
	23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.
Thematic area 4 Facilitating regular migration and decent work, and enhancing the positive effects of human mobility on development	5. Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.
	6. Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work.
	18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences.
	19. Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.
	20. Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants.
	23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.
Thematic area 5 Improving social inclusion and integration of the migrant population	4. Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.
	15. Provide access to basic services for migrants.
	16. Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.
	22. Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits.
	23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Annex 2. Basic statistics of stakeholders participating in the process

Table 1. Voluntary reports submitted in the Regional Review process -Latin America and the Caribbean- of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), by author, 2021

Type	Authors	N.º
Countries	Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Uruguay, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.	17
Regional or subregional inter-governmental bodies and official platforms	Inter-American Development Bank; South American Conference on Migration; Forum of Presidents of Legislative Branches in Central America, the Caribbean Basin and Mexico; Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities; Executive Secretariat of the Regional Conference on Migration; Ibero-American General Secretariat.	6
Civil society	Asociación de Mujeres Transgéneras Nicaragüenses; Associação Nacional de Imigrantes Venezuelanos, Brazil; Asylum Access, Mexico; Children Believe, Nicaragua; Semillas de Paz, Ecuador; Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes, Uruguay; SJR, Ecuador; Venezolanos por Decisión, Colombia; World Vision, Nicaragua; United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, Central America, North America and the Caribbean; Human Rights Watch, Central and North America, and the Caribbean; Humanity & Inclusion, South America; Bloque Latinoamericano; Red Espacio Sin Fronteras, South America.	14
Others	Public Defender's Office, Paraguay; Ombudsman's Office of Ecuador.	2
TOTAL		39

Table 2. People participating in the Regional Review-Latin America and the Caribbean- of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), according to the attendance declared, April 26-28, 2021

Attendance	N.º
Delegations of countries	249
United Nations Delegations	168
Delegations of Regional Inter-governmental Bodies	11
Delegations of Cooperation and Development Agencies	10
National Human Rights Institutions	17
Parliaments	13
Workers' and Employees' Organisations	12
Local communities and authorities	14
Migrant and Diaspora Organisations	230
Academia	83
Others	129
TOTAL	936

Table 3. Countries represented in the Regional Review -Latin America and the Caribbean- of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), by capacity, April 26-28, 2021

Capacity	Countries	N.º
ECLAC members, GCM parties, Latin America or the Caribbean, with official delegation	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Belize, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.	26
Extra-regional ECLAC members, with official delegation	Canada, Portugal, Turkey, the United States.	4
ECLAC associate members, the Caribbean, with official delegation	Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao.	4
Without official delegation	Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Palestine, Spain, Switzerland, Uganda.	16
TOTAL		50

Table 4. Other official delegations in the Regional Review -Latin America and the Caribbean- of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), by capacity, April 26-28, 2021.

Capacity	Institutions	N.º
United Nations system	Secretariat, IOM, ECLAC-CELADE, UN-Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC, OHCHR, FAO, UNHCR, CMW, UNESCO, ILO, WHO-PAHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, WFP.	18
Inter-governmental agencies in the region	ALADI, IDB, CARICOM, Platform on Disaster Displacement, SEGIB, SICA, SELA.	7
Cooperation and development agencies	AECID, ECHO Field Network European Commission, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF).	4
TOTAL		29

Annex 3. Message of the civil society at the opening of the Regional Review meeting on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean

Fraternal greetings from the civil society organisations and the civil society youths. Those who participated have decided to share with you this message from the representation of **Nancy Pérez from Jóvenes para el Cambio I UNMGCY and Berenice Valdez Rivera from Bloque Latinoamericano sobre Migración.**

This statement gathers the voices of some civil society networks and organisations, such as UNMGCY, Red Sin Fronteras, Fundación Consulado Cívico, Save My Identity, Caribe Afirmativo and Bloque Latinoamericano sobre Migración, which participated in the consultation convened by ECLAC and the IOM regional office. With many organisations, we share the need for the creation of an inclusive regional migration process, beyond the visions of existing regional platforms, such as the IOM and ECLAC. Such process should assume the highest standards in terms of participation, transparency, surveillance and monitoring with all the stakeholders and States, and create permanent coordination and action mechanisms, on the basis of respectful, democratic and inclusive dynamics and spaces.

We consider that the participants and civil society spaces in the region, in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Latin American migrants in other latitudes, such as the United States of America and Europe, their communities and families, are not representative in this regional review; however, we do know that this process is new and opens up a learning opportunity for all the parties involved, regional agencies and platforms. We trust that we will contribute to its evolution and witness its impact.

We propose that good participation practices be considered through the UN Network on Migration at a global level, through other regional processes such as the 2030 Agenda and experiences of processes in other regions, such as Asia, as well as through the confidence and strength gained in the relationship between the new

regional platform for migration of the IOM and ECLAC, and organised migrants, their families and civil society organisations working for the defence and promotion of the rights of moving persons.

We believe that this review space is very important as the reality of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Latin American migrants in other regions and continents, continues to show us the need and importance to ensure the right to migrate with full guarantee of and respect for human rights, and to promote the conditions so as not to migrate, as well. For migration to be a right freely decided on by any person in the region, actual channels for migration regularisation and for regular entry into countries are required. Numerous proposals have been made even in the process of preparation of the Compact itself, now we expect regional mechanisms to trigger their implementation, which is in the hands of the States.

Challenges in the region are considerable; only in 2019 Latin America became the region with the largest number of asylum applications, due to the complex Venezuelan crisis and the increased violence and insecurity in Central America. All the foregoing has been aggravated by the COVID 19 pandemic and the effects of forced displacements and natural disasters, such as hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America. This has resulted in migration through the so-called “caravans” as the safest migration strategy in Central America, where hundreds of women, children, adolescents, young people, men, LGBTIQ+ persons flee to save their lives, for their safety and for a dignified life, in pursuit of a life free of violence or in pursuit of justice for their missing or massacred migrant family members. In addition, there is an ongoing flow of Haitians, Cubans and Africans exposed to crossing the Darien jungle, one of the most dangerous routes in the world not only because of its geographic features but also because of the presence of armed and drug-trafficking groups. This is also the case throughout the Mexican territory, one of

the largest routes in the world, where various situations of violence have increased in the pandemic year. There is violence against women and migrants, with another migrant massacre in Tamaulipas, on the border with the United States of America, while the new administration of the said country establishes its migration agenda with an impact on the entire continent and on the world. In South America, only at this weekend, we saw a collective expulsion of migrants, out of several expulsions scheduled by the Chilean State, infringing a set of rights, due process and international principles.

Given the evidence of the risk for thousands of lives, the need for action to create decent living conditions and ensure the right to migration and international protection, we issue a call so that speaking about safe, orderly and regular migration does not imply setbacks in the region, but the implementation of any policy with the highest standards of human rights, international law and gender, and on the basis of an inter-sectional analysis of the realities and exclusions, in order to positively act for equality, the right to life and to dignity; this cannot be negotiable. Even though the Compact mentions national sovereignty, it also stresses the shared responsibilities as “no country can address the challenges and opportunities of this global phenomenon on its own [...]”, and we have “an overarching obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status” (paragraph 11 of the Compact).

It has been an honour to share this event with my partner Nancy from the youth groups, as many migrant youths are seen in most routes in our region, and it has been a pleasure to share with all of you, and I thank you for listening. We issue this call to be able to develop actions, to be able to create coordinated initiatives whose impacts can be actually measured. The UN has already created human rights indicators, and we expect those indicators and all the work that the United Nations system has done to be reflected on the implementation of the Compact. As the civil society, we have that trust: that the 10 principles of the Compact, and the gender, human rights and whole-of-society approaches will go beyond and that we will not only mention them in every meeting or place them at the end of a sentence as a politically correct surname.

We want it to be implemented in a process of civil society participation; we want it to be implemented in the access to rights by migrants, their families and communities. We want the principles of non-repetition to be ensured in light of such pressing issues that we experience in the region, such as massacres. This month it has been three years of massacres in clandestine graves in Mexico, massacres of migrants; we do not want this to happen. We want the Compact to be an action watershed, so that, as Antonio Vitorino said, a change is actually made; it is possible, we believe it is. As Alicia Bárcenas stated, action should be taken on the basis of the strength and contribution of all populations, of women, in particular, of sexually diverse groups which have been segregated and which are one of the groups facing greatest violence in the migration within our region.

Causes must be addressed to ensure not only the protection and right to migrate, but also the right not to migrate, which has been strongly emphasised by ECLAC and which we want to see materialised in realities with the participation of the civil society. What conditions do people have to decide not to migrate? In light of such adverse conditions and life risks, we want this to be the beginning of a real process, built by all the stakeholders with the States, with the governments. We know that there are many difficulties and we know that there are pressures beyond the Nation-States, and we want to contribute to assistance and defence, because we are already doing it. You know that most actions in the field, or in shelters, are conducted by the civil society or the various churches. Then, we want to coordinate all those decades of experience that we have to be able to contribute and, to do this, we express some specific proposals.

In particular, we propose:

- 1) Creating a permanent mechanism of regional stakeholders, including the participation of the civil society, organised migrants in our Latin American territories, in the Global North, the United States of America, Europe or other latitudes, of course, with the leadership of ECLAC and the IOM, on the basis of the platforms that they already have, but using the entire United Nations system, as was stated by the UN Special Rapporteur on the human



rights of migrants, Felipe González.

Including in this process the participation of global stakeholders through the UN Network on Migration and its Executive Committee, but also with national participation, represents the opportunity that we have been asking for decades: mutual coordination among the global, regional and local spheres, and the possibility to jointly build and cooperate.

We need a dialogue space that defines coordinated strategies in the implementation of the Compact: this would be the first thing, a permanent platform. We would not like this to become a search for speakers when holding an event, or a search for members for a specific panel; we want a follow-up process. The challenges shown are so many.

2) The second proposal is that the assessment of the implementation of the Compact is not confined to this exercise; this has been a first exercise for the purposes of learning rather than creating solutions impacting on our territories, our Latin American brotherhood, our communities and migrants. We want this effort to go beyond a presentation for or participation in a Global Forum; we want it to have the highest human rights standards, within the legal framework of public international law, in particular, based on international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The assessment must adhere to fundamental law principles, impact indicators; otherwise, this diagnosis will be incomplete. We cannot continue merely stating good practices. The assessment must be precise, drawing on the 23 Objectives, but creating priorities with different time frames. Those elements, with many others which ECLAC, the IOM and the UN are aware of, need to be implemented in such assessment.

3) The third one relates to strategic vision. Of course we need to be strategic because, in everyday assistance, strategic life decisions must be made. We have experience of that and we want this to be reflected on the global and regional spaces through a priority follow-up agenda with impact indicators, which recognises the contributions of moving persons, particularly, women, children, young people, their migrant families and communities.

4) As a fourth proposal: including, in the reception policies and recommendations for migration support, all the differentiated approaches ensuring assistance with a rights perspective and based on the principle of equality and non-discrimination. This needs to be adopted at the levels of assistance and communication; a strong, powerful narrative must be created from the United Nations, emanating from assistance to the public communication referring to the inclusion and wealth contributed by moving persons, migrants, their communities and those of us who defend the rights of migrants.

5) Finally, the Compact, as a guide for States, as it is understood by us, is also a guide for society, and must aim at promoting cooperation based on good practices, but also defining actions to solve high risks and to include all migrants, migrant women, young people, children and LGBTIQ+ persons. That mixed migration must be acknowledged and those situations where international protection has not been recognised yet must be identified; in our region there are thousands of people in that situation, requiring assistance with a differentiated approach and with measures adopted by States.

These are five areas that we deem essential and that we submit for your special consideration, and for the consideration of all the State apparatus which you have and of the United Nations system, which we join and would like to contribute to from the organised civil society in the entire region and the Latin American migrants. Thank you.





Global Compact
FOR **Migration**



United Nations
Network on Migration

Working Better Together

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