



JOINT DECLARATION OF THE VI INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON HUMAN MOBILITY OF VENEZUELAN CITIZENS IN THE REGION

**Santiago Chapter
September 23 & 24, 2020**

The representatives of the Governments of the Republic of Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Ecuador, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, the United Mexican States, the Republic of Panama, the Republic of Paraguay, the Republic of Peru, and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay participated in the VI Meeting – Santiago Chapter of the Quito Process on September 23 and 24, 2020 to follow up on the Quito Declarations of September 4, 2018, April 9, 2019, July 5, 2019, November 15, 2019 and the Action Plan signed on November 23, 2018, as well as the Buenos Aires Chapter Road Map of July 5, 2019.

AGREE:

1. To reiterate their concern for the Venezuelan migratory and humanitarian crisis that, according to estimates from the Regional Platform of Interagency Coordination for Refugees and Migrants of Venezuela (R4V), has generated the departure of 5.1 million Venezuelans from their country by August 2020;
2. To reaffirm the commitment of Member States to an efficient response to the Venezuelan migratory and humanitarian crisis from a human rights perspective, which in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic has succeeded in strengthening the Quito Process as an intergovernmental initiative for the exchange of information, best practices and joint programs;
3. To highlight the efforts of the Member States of the Quito Process in the reception, care and inclusion of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in transit and who settle in host countries, taking into consideration logistical and budgetary challenges, border management areas and the Amazon region;

4. To ratify their commitment to safe, orderly and regular migration, taking into account the legal system of each Member State, the international protection of Venezuelan refugees and the need for international cooperation to contribute to efforts that countries make in providing assistance to Venezuelan migrants and refugees;
5. To highlight the organization and development of the preparatory thematic workshops for the VI Technical Meeting - Santiago Chapter, which through the exchange of knowledge, information and best practices facilitated understanding of the different dynamics and national responses to the situation of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the region;
6. To invite Member States to implement, in accordance with their domestic laws and taking into account their different realities, policies and priorities, the recommendations from the thematic workshops:
 - a. Fill out a form with indicators developed by UNAIDS to reflect the current status of HIV/AIDS in the region in consultation with the respective national authorities;
 - b. Develop regional cooperation mechanisms that strengthen state capacities for the assistance and protection of the rights of Venezuelan migrant and refugee children and adolescents;
 - c. Examine mechanisms to continue promoting the principle of family reunification for Venezuelan migrants and refugees, through policies, the exchange of best practices and international cooperation;
 - d. Accompany and facilitate the voluntary return process through policies formulated and managed using a human rights approach, coordination between Member States and with the cooperation of relevant international agencies;

- e. Reaffirm their commitment to guaranteeing the right to education for migrants and refugees, taking into account their multiplying capacity and strengthening regional policy articulation, processes involving the production of data and evidence for the traceability of educational trajectories, promoting the exercising of the right to inclusive, equitable, and quality education regardless of country of origin and migratory status.
- f. Make progress with mechanisms for the recognition and validation of previous studies that allow migrants and refugees to continue their educational trajectories that support the continuity of their studies and/or labor insertion in host countries.
- g. Take into account the proposed "Regional Strategy for the Socio-Economic Integration of Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela and their Host Communities" as a reference document for this area and urge the relevant national entities to strengthen their analysis and comments regarding this publication;
- h. Study how an increased exchange of information, data and mechanisms between public employment services and other relevant institutions in the countries participating in the Quito Process can contribute to facilitating the access of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to decent work opportunities throughout the region;
- i. Recognize achievements for the strengthening of national capacities in the fight against human trafficking and urge the relevant authorities from the Members States to continue to develop positions in relation to the implementation of a regional coordination mechanism for the prevention, protection, assistance and prosecution of this crime in the framework of the Venezuelan migratory and humanitarian crisis and with the support of specialized international organizations;
- j. Encourage the exchange of information and best practices to assist and address the needs of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the context of the

COVID-19 pandemic, including actions to prevent and protect vulnerable and indigenous populations in border areas;

- k.** Foster the continuity of dialogue between the national commissions for refugees (CONAREs) of the Member States of the Quito Process, which includes the exchange of best practices and procedures for the determination of refugee status, as well as national and regional initiatives and programs including cooperation with specialized international organizations;
 - l.** Make progress with the exchange of best practices on temporary orientation and reception centers for Venezuelan migrant and refugee individuals and families, strengthening assistance, coordination and networks involving different support spaces.
 - m.** Reaffirm the commitment to contribute data to the online platform for the regional mapping of support spaces and services operated by the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants of Venezuela (R4V).
7. To urge Member States, in accordance with their national capacities and regulations, to support the actions that emerge from the systematization of the thematic workshops held during the VI Round of the Quito Process, as well as the decisions adopted during the Santiago Chapter;
 8. To welcome the presentation of the Quito Process Web Platform, which will make it possible to share concerted actions and decisions, gather and unify relevant documentation, generate a space for interaction among States, technical agencies and civil society, as well as communicate activities and initiatives and allow for the dissemination of updated information on Venezuelan migration in the region;
 9. To highlight the adoption of the Quito Process logo as an expression of the consolidation of this intergovernmental space for the exchange of best practices, with a view to articulating and coordinating a regional response to the Venezuelan migratory and humanitarian crisis;

10. To highlight the areas of work prior to the VI Meeting - Santiago Chapter organized by the Pro Tempore Presidency in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the strong participation of States, the countries in charge of the thematic axes, the Technical Secretariat, international organizations, and Technical Focal Points in the workshops and meetings convened to respond to the Venezuelan migratory and humanitarian crisis;
11. To recognize the importance and renew the call for the International Conference of Donors in Solidarity with Venezuelan Migrants and Refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean, held virtually on May 26, 2020, which ratified the need for increased and committed technical and financial support for host countries from donors and international financial institutions;
12. To reaffirm the collaborative spirit that has characterized the Quito Process, which has consolidated it as the main technical space for the response to the Venezuelan migratory and humanitarian crisis aimed at improving the well-being of migrants and refugees from this country;
13. To welcome the formation of the Group of Friends of the Quito Process and to thank the formal adhesion of the Swiss Confederation, the United States of America, the Kingdom of Spain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada and the European Union, as well as to express interest in maintaining technical collaboration, financing and international awareness regarding the Venezuelan migratory and humanitarian crisis;
14. To reiterate the invitation to observer countries that have participated in the meetings of the Santiago Chapter to join the Group of Friends of the Quito Process;
15. To congratulate the establishment of the Technical Secretariat of the Quito Process, consisting of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that are recognized for their technical assistance, monitoring of the Quito Process and support through multiple efforts;



16. To encourage Member States to maintain consular cooperation in the area of care and protection for their nationals in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, an effort that the relevant international organizations are invited to join;
17. To welcome the second anniversary of the "I International Technical Meeting on Mobility of Venezuelan Citizens in the Region" that established the foundations of the Quito Process;
18. To express appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Peru for the decision to host the VII Meeting of the Quito Process at the next session of the Pro-Tempore Presidency, and;
19. To thank and congratulate the Government of the Republic of Chile for the organization, implementation and agenda of the VI Round - Santiago Chapter of the Quito Process, which includes this Technical Meeting.

This Joint Declaration of the VI Meeting - Santiago Chapter has been prepared in Spanish, Portuguese and English so that it can be widely disseminated.

SANTIAGO, SEPTEMBER 2020