

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE VIII INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING

ON HUMAN MOBILITY OF VENEZUELAN CITIZENS IN THE REGION

Quito Process

Brasilia Chapter, June 30 and July 1, 2022

The representatives of the Governments of the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Ecuador, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the United Mexican States, the Republic of Panama, the Republic of Paraguay, the Republic of Peru, the Dominican Republic and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, who participated in the VIII Meeting - Brasilia Chapter of the Quito Process - on June 30 and July 1, 2022 with the purpose of following up on the Declarations from the Quito, Buenos Aires, Bogota, Santiago and Lima Chapters and the Action Plan signed on November 23, 2018, as well as the Roadmap from the Buenos Aires Chapter of July 5, 2019, agree to:

1. Reaffirm the importance of the Quito Process as an intergovernmental technical space for the development of proposals, the exchange of best practices and the monitoring of shared problems, with a view to promoting an increasingly coordinated regional response to the human mobility of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region with a commitment to promote and protect their dignity and human rights.
2. Reiterate their concern about the continued human mobility of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, whose migratory flow to date has exceeded 6 million people, of whom more than 5 million are either in transit or in destination countries in Latin America and the Caribbean according to the report prepared in June 2022 by the Response for Venezuelans (R4V), which is part of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP).
3. Express concern about the possibility that the regional situation caused by the flow of Venezuelan refugees and migrants may become invisible, urging increased efforts by the international community to provide humanitarian and development assistance, including through initiatives such as the International Solidarity Conference on the Venezuelan Refugee and Migrant Crisis, which was held in 2019, 2020 and 2021.
4. Reaffirm the need for increased international technical and financial support through greater commitments from donor countries, international financial institutions, development actors and the private sector, with the intention of contributing to the efforts made by these countries to provide humanitarian assistance to different migratory movements and populations living in destination communities.
5. Recognize efforts made by member countries of the Quito Process to provide health assistance to Venezuelan refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as including them in vaccination programs without discrimination. At the same time, express concern for the effects that the pandemic continues to have on the most vulnerable refugee and migrant populations, as well as their host communities, and continue to provide coordinated and inclusive post-COVID-19 health assistance, especially in terms of vaccination and mental health mechanisms.
6. Recognize the constant progress made by member countries with the development of standards and procedures that facilitate and simplify the migratory regularization of Venezuelan refugees and

migrants and that promote their integration into host societies, ensuring their access to fundamental rights.

7. Highlight progress with the design of strategies that promote socioeconomic integration, the integration of public employment services platforms, employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship. These initiatives allow refugees and migrants to exercise their rights, participate in social dialogue and contribute to the growth of host societies as engines of development while reducing discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia.

8. Reaffirm the commitment to guarantee the right to inclusive, equitable and quality education for refugees and migrants on the move.

9. Highlight the organization of the thematic preparatory workshops for the VIII Technical Meeting - Brasilia Chapter - held in April 2022, which through facilitating exchanges of knowledge, information and good practices, made it possible to continue with the development of technical proposals that are adapted to new regional and national realities¹.

10. It is important to highlight the organization and holding of three webinars in May 2022. These made it possible to highlight relevant topics such as host communities, groups in situations of vulnerability and the studies carried out and progress made with the migratory regularization of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. These webinars involved the participation of member countries, the Group of Friends of the Quito Process, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations that support the States and Venezuelan refugee and migrant organizations, local authorities and the private sector².

11. Invite member countries to implement, in accordance with their domestic legislation, and taking into account their different realities, policies, capacities and priorities, the following recommendations emanating from the thematic workshops and webinars of the Brasilia Chapter:

- A) Continue efforts to implement a regional framework for monitoring the education of refugees and migrants with a view to guaranteeing educational access, permanence and completion of studies for this population, which includes designing strategies to prevent exclusion, discrimination and xenophobia in the educational sphere and promote the integration of Venezuelan children and young people who are out of school; encourage and consolidate the participation of countries in regional cooperation and coordination forums that facilitate dialogue and the exchange of experiences and best practices regarding a comprehensive approach to the educational situation of migrant students; foster evidence-based policies that promote the educational traceability of migrant students, taking into account the importance of continuing to make progress with mechanisms for the recognition and validation of studies and trajectories that favor educational inclusion and continuation, as well as labor insertion in host societies.
- B) Recognize progress with the implementation of the Regional Socioeconomic Integration Strategy for Venezuelan refugees and migrants and their host communities with the support of the Group of Friends and other development partners, especially in relation to: the interconnection of Public Employment Services; the promotion of the equitable hiring of migrant, refugee and national workers; the implementation of internal labor mobility programs; and the preparation of a proposal for a regional scheme that facilitates the certification of competencies, as well as a regional qualifications framework. Member countries are invited to: promote the socioeconomic

¹ The executive summaries of the workshops are compiled in Annex 1 to this Declaration.

² The executive summaries of the webinars are compiled in Annex 1 to this Statement.

integration of migrants and refugees with full protection of their labor rights; adopt territorial strategies to materialize the opportunities that human mobility can generate for local development and contribute to the construction of diverse and supportive communities; and strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms and the adoption of regional policies on the mutual recognition of qualifications and competencies, labor intermediation and social protection.

- C) Continue to strengthen national capacities for the international protection of refugees with support from the Group of Friends and the Asylum Capacity Support Group, when appropriate; strengthen initiatives and programs for access to regularization of migratory status for Venezuelan nationals, promoting correlation and complementarity among the various legal statutes, including refugee status, statelessness, temporary protection, migratory status, complementary protection and regularization mechanisms; continue to promote the identification and exchange of best practices in relation to refugee status determination procedures through consultations with National Commissions for Refugees (CONAREs) or equivalent bodies interested in participating. Taking into account existing regional forums, structure joint initiatives for training and the development of best practices, including: the optimization of mechanisms for identifying international protection needs; strengthening of case identification and referral systems; development of biometric registration tools and computerized management of applications; and the establishment of accelerated, simplified, merged and special procedures for refugee status determination, in accordance with national legislation, among others.
- D) Disseminate and promote the guiding principles and standards for temporary orientation and reception centers and support spaces that strengthen systems of care for refugees and migrants in Venezuela as a technical working document produced by the Quito Process; organize technical exchanges between authorities and orientation centers, managers of support spaces, international and regional agencies and civil society organizations, with a focus on field staff through virtual and face-to-face meetings; recognize the leading role of the States and local institutions in strengthening the capacities of the centers in accordance with the policies, systems and social protection network of each State; and continue to update the online platform for the regional mapping of services on the R4V Platform.
- E) Reaffirm the right to family unity as a fundamental group of societies and a principle that is inherent to the universal recognition of the family; recognize the difficulties and vulnerabilities to which families are exposed when separated; learn from the assessment that synthesizes and reports on existing mechanisms for the family reunification of refugees and migrants at the regional level, which can provide a basis for visualizing best practices in the region and will help identify challenges and opportunity areas to improve reunification processes and generate specific strategies for the member countries of the Quito Process; and highlight the importance of the integration and inclusion of refugee and migrant families in their host communities.
- F) Finalize and validate the Operational Guide for the specialized protection of children in processes of human mobility, in consultation with member countries, which seeks to promote the application of international standards on children's rights, human rights and international refugee

law in the region; and reaffirm interest in continuing to make progress with the exchange of best practices in the area of child and adolescent protection and carry out periodic efforts for the technical strengthening of front-line staff responsible for the care of refugee and migrant children and adolescents from Venezuela in coordination with United Nations agencies.

- G) Continue to strengthen assistance and provision of health services to the migrant and refugee population with HIV/AIDS, including sentinel surveillance and information management with safeguarding of information in order to improve the quality and disaggregation of data, indicators and variables that are essential for epidemiological surveillance of HIV events; continue efforts to accelerate the transition to TLD (Tenofovir, Lamivudine and Dolutegravir); establish technical dialogue and spaces for articulation between countries to discuss the portability of treatment; emphasize the importance of defining clear health mechanisms so that refugees and migrants know where and how to access health services and establish broad communication strategies for this population; continue discussions with countries in the region about the Cross-Border Action Plan (TAP) for the expansion of health services coverage and for the elimination of barriers to access to antiretroviral treatment (ART) and examine the role of the Quito Process in its implementation, including the identification of possible convergences with other thematic axes; integrate efforts against discrimination and stigmatization of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers living with HIV into the Regional Strategy against Xenophobia in the framework of the Quito Process while using intercultural, gender and human rights approaches; promote a technical cooperation and regional coordination agenda on HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) for refugees and migrants in transit, ensuring the timely delivery of information and facilitating tools and resources for Combined Prevention, as well as early detection through rapid testing.
- H) Urge member countries to continue working on the implementation of the Regional Coordination Mechanism with technical and financial support from the IOM for the Prevention, Protection and Assistance and Prosecution of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons based on dialogue as part of the workshop on trafficking in persons, where the first results of the baseline for the collection of information on the thematic areas proposed in the Mechanism were presented and the next steps to be taken for its implementation were prioritized; articulate the required actions for the implementation of international cooperation projects in this area identified with the Group of Friends of the Quito Process in alignment with the needs and priorities of member countries.
- I) Ensure that Venezuelan refugees and migrants are included in national vaccination plans against COVID-19; highlight the importance of collecting disaggregated data on the populations of refugees and migrants vaccinated and cared for in health systems for the analysis and improvement of evidence-based public policies; recognize the relevance of efforts for the promotion of mental health for the national, migrant and refugee populations, taking into account the prolonged impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; consider psychosocial care models adapted to the realities faced by each country and the specific conditions faced by different groups, especially children, adolescents, women, older adults and vulnerable groups; and add a health approach to the Regional Strategy against Xenophobia to reduce stigma against the refugee and migrant population, especially by health service professionals.

- J) Promote efforts to address the needs of the different groups in vulnerable situations among the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population with a focus on the intersectionality between them, understanding the refugee and migrant population as a heterogeneous group facing multiple overlapping and coexisting layers of vulnerability, including children and adolescents, homeless people, people with disabilities and indigenous groups; develop efficient information systems to identify vulnerable populations and their characteristics, compiling disaggregated data to overcome statistical invisibility and avoid the overlapping of assistance; and highlight the importance of articulation and collaboration between public policies on migration, health, housing, education, labor and others to work more efficiently and maximize resources and capacities.
- K) Strengthen the capacities of the host communities of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, highlight the benefits that the integration of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population can bring to host communities and raise awareness about the importance of supporting these communities for the sustainability of integration efforts and the promotion of rights; identify and promote regional community best practices that benefit both the refugee and migrant population and host communities; share experiences and best practices from local stakeholders, civil society and the private sector, such as practices that promote the professional recruitment of refugees and migrants, implementation of inclusion, diversity and social responsibility policies, and investment in internal communication and training, which will promote collective benefits and encourage new similar initiatives in the private sector; organize spaces for exchanges between actors involved in networks and host communities with a view to building tools to facilitate connections involving local governments, Venezuelan communities and coalitions of the Venezuelan diaspora that have managed to connect positively with their host communities, identifying experiences and providing testimonies and placing these stakeholders at the center of this reflection.
- L) Take note of the discussions coordinated by the Pro Tempore Presidency of Brazil on the issue of migratory regularization and procedures for the determination of refugee status, especially regarding the legal and practical barriers to accessing registration and document regularization processes for protection and economic, social, labor and other types of inclusion that lead to the full integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants; consider the adoption of administrative facilities, the relaxation of criteria and the adoption of mechanisms that allow regularization through different legal channels, promoting coordination and complementarity between refugee status, stateless status, complementary protection status and special regularization mechanisms, propose relevant migratory legislation and facilitate access to citizenship or nationality as appropriate.
- M) Continue to strengthen commitments from member countries of the Quito Process to consider the specific and differentiated needs of Venezuelan migrant and refugee girls, female adolescents and women in the design and implementation of policies and programs for social protection, employment, health, education, and prevention, care and comprehensive assistance in situations involving gender-based violence. Support empowerment and economic autonomy initiatives

aimed at young and vulnerable women that help promote social cohesion in the host communities.

12. Thank the Group of Friends of the Quito Process for the expressions of support and commitment made during the workshops and webinars and for the intention to coordinate technical cooperation projects in accordance with the coordinated working document developed by the Quito Process and the Group of Friends³.

13. Welcome the participation of the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Quito Process in different international forums with support from the Technical Secretariat, with the intention of raising awareness of the situation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants and promoting the exchange of best practices; notable achievements in this area include invitations to participate in the Brasilia Chapter of the Assembly of the Coalition for Venezuela, the Executive Committee of UNHCR, the Global Meeting of Interstate Consultation Mechanisms on Migration ISCM-9, the launch of the RMRP 2022 and the Regional Meeting of the R4V Platform, the IV Ibero-American Forum on Migration, the IDB Regional Policy Dialogue, as well as meetings of the Committee on Migration Issues and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development of the OAS.

14. Thank the efforts and support received from the Lead Countries (*Champions*) and the United Nations System agencies, which support the work carried out in each of the thematic areas and in the development and coordination of the workshops and webinars of the Quito Process.

15. Incorporate the recommendations of the consultancy on processes, carried out under the supervision of the Pro Tempore Presidency and implemented in workshops, webinars and future activities, with the objective of striving for continuous improvement of the procedures and products derived from the actions of this intergovernmental forum.

16. Continue in the next chapters of the Quito Process with the identification and systematization of the impacts produced by the incorporation of the recommendations made at the meetings of this regional forum and that are incorporated into public policies in member countries.

17. Continue to generate opportunities for discussion on relevant topics such as migration regularization, the perspectives of young refugees and migrants and groups in vulnerable situations, as well as the coordinated response and impacts on host communities, and establish a permanent space for technical exchanges with civil society, including the participation of academic institutions.

18. Promote, under the leadership of the Republic of Colombia and with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), a regional strategy against xenophobia, taking into account the specific contexts in each member country, with the purpose of sending a common message on integration. This will result in increased benefits for refugees and migrants as well as for host communities.

19. Thank the World Bank (WB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for organizing and conducting the webinar on International Financing Mechanisms for the focal points of the member countries of the Quito Process, identifying opportunities and formats for accessing financing and technical support for projects.

20. Highlight and congratulate the work carried out by the Technical Secretariat of the Quito Process, consisting of officials from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High

³ The Joint Working Document of the Quito Process and the Group of Friends constitutes Annex 2 of this Declaration.

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who are acknowledged for their technical assistance, follow-up work on the Quito Process, development and maintenance of the Quito Process web page, inter-agency coordination and support for a wide range of activities.

21. Congratulate the Government of Chile for its offer to assume the planning and organization of the IX Meeting of the Quito Process Chapter Santiago.

22. Congratulate the Presidency and coordination of the VIII Round, carried out by the Federative Republic of Brazil, with permanent support from the Technical Secretariat, formed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in order to hold the VIII Plenary Meeting - Brasilia Chapter - of the Quito Process in a face-to-face format, thus contributing to rapprochement between countries and an increase in technical cooperation; and thank the Federative Republic of Brazil for conducting a technical visit to the city of Boa Vista, in the State of Roraima, in order to learn *in situ* about the operation known as *Operation Welcome (Operação Acolhida)*, highlighting the importance of witnessing actions in the field to facilitate learning about the implementation of best practices in the region.

This Joint Declaration of the VIII Meeting - Brasilia Chapter has been prepared in Spanish, Portuguese and English in order to ensure its broad dissemination.

Bluck
Drele

M. Pecars B

Fulvio Benavides C.