

DECLARATION OF THE IXth PLENARY MEETING OF THE QUITO PROCESS

"BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM FOR RESPONSES TO MIGRATION AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN"

**Quito Process
Santiago Chapter II
November 22, 23, and 24, 2023**

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 Paraguay, the Republic of Peru, and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, who participated in the IX Meeting – Santiago Chapter II of the Quito Process – on November 22, 23, and 24, 2023, with the purpose of following up on the "Joint Statements from International Technical Meetings on the Human Mobility of Venezuelan Individuals in the Region" of Quito, Buenos Aires, Bogotá, Santiago, Lima, Brasilia, and the Action Plan signed on November 23, 2018, as well as the Roadmap of the Buenos Aires Chapter on July 5, 2019.

AGREE:

1. To reaffirm the importance of the Quito Process as an intergovernmental technical space for coordinating joint solutions to the situation of refugees and migrants in the region, especially Venezuelan people. The process aims to harmonize and coordinate measures implemented to ensure international protection and safe, orderly, and regular mobility for refugees and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. To reaffirm their commitment to the protection and defense of the human rights of refugees and migrants and their families, as well as to the promotion of inclusive initiatives that ensure their dignity, security, integration, and non-discrimination in the countries of origin, transit, and destination.
3. To express concern about the different trends and increases in regional human mobility, especially those using irregular passages or routes. They acknowledge the political, economic, social, cultural, and sustainable development impact on countries of origin, transit, and destination, highlighting the need for regional actions ensuring international protection under dignified conditions and facilitating paths for safe, orderly, and regular migration.
4. To reinforce the commitment to addressing and managing challenges arising from human mobility through bilateral, regional, and international efforts, using cross-cutting approaches such as human rights, gender, and institutional capacity strengthening. This should be done from a responsible, democratic, solidarity-driven, and comprehensive perspective, promoted within existing regional coordination spaces like the Regional Conference on Migration and the South American Conference on Migrations.
5. To highlight the strengthening of the Quito Process System, comprising the Pro Tempore Presidency, the Troika, Member States, Technical Secretariat, Group of Friends, United Nations System Agencies, R4V Platform, civil society, academia, and the private sector.
6. To renew the commitment and reaffirm the need for international cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean concerning human mobility, emphasizing the principle of shared responsibility.
7. To stress the importance of continuing to highlight challenges related to human mobility in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Emphasizing the need for international cooperation and inter-agency efforts to address derived challenges such

as the protection and assistance to women, children, and adolescents in mobility, human trafficking, and related crimes, the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants, and the promotion of a new narrative around human mobility. Therefore, they call on donor countries, development banks, and international organizations to financially support Member Countries in identifying and implementing development programs for refugees and migrants and the originating, transit, and host communities.

8. To highlight the development of the "Action Dimensions" proposed by the Pro Tempore Presidency of Chile, responding to different thematic areas and structural components of the Quito Process and international normative frameworks aiming to develop shared action lines on human mobility. These are:

- a) Sustainable Development of Local Communities and Socioeconomic Integration:** The role of local governments and host communities in multidimensional integration.
- b) Legal stay, Migration Residency, and International Protection Regime:** Safe, orderly, and regular management of human mobility and international refugee protection in the region.
- c) Protection and Rights Access Approach:** Non-violation and protection of the human rights of refugees and migrants.
- d) International and Regional Cooperation for the Quito Process System and its Member Countries:** Inter-agency cooperation and the strategic relationship with the Friends of the Quito Process Group.

9. To continue working on strengthening the cooperation and coordination of technical actions, sharing best practices, and technical dialogue in the thematic areas of the Quito Process to enhance the response and governance of human mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean.

10. To invite Member States of the Quito Process to implement, in accordance with their internal legislation and considering their different realities, policies, capacities, and priorities, the recommendations arising from the Thematic Workshops, both in-person and virtual, of the Santiago Chapter II, including:

A. Action Dimension No. 1: Sustainable Development of Local Communities and Socioeconomic Integration

- a.1.** Aims to highlight the role of local governments and host communities in the multidimensional integration processes of refugees and migrants, promoting social cohesion. It includes the thematic areas of Socioeconomic Integration and the new thematic area of Local Governments and Host Communities. The activities outlined in the agenda of the IX Round of the Quito Process – Santiago Chapter II were developed thanks to the collaboration of Colombia, Chile, Canada, the United States, the European Union, IOM, UNHCR, ILO, UNDP, and Sweden.
- a.2.** During this IXth Round, work focused on validating the components of the Regional Socioeconomic Integration Strategy, emphasizing the formulation of development and labor inclusion indicators, coherence between public employment policies and those of human mobility, and strengthening the institutional capacities of local governments for managing human mobility.
- a.3.** Therefore, it is recommended to continue exploring the possibility of developing standardized competence certification mechanisms, monitoring the Regional Qualifications Framework, continuing coordinated efforts to implement the Regional Socioeconomic Integration Strategy, developing a platform for interoperability for integrated labor markets, and implementing training

programs for local government officials on topics such as local employment linkage, social intervention with vulnerable groups, and awareness and language use for social cohesion.

B. Action Dimension No. 2: Stay, Migration Residency, and International Protection Regimes

- b.1.** Aims to strengthen access to residence and protection for refugees and migrants, contributing to safe, orderly, and regular management of human mobility in the region. It includes the thematic areas of Family Reunification, Refugees, Asylum, and International Protection, and the new thematic area of Residence, Migration Stay, and Temporary Protection. The activities outlined in the agenda of the IX Round of the Quito Process – Santiago Chapter II were developed thanks to the collaboration of Costa Rica, Brazil, Chile, Canada, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- b.2.** During this IXth Round, work focused on the best interests of children, seeking to prioritize the protection of family unity in situations of human mobility, especially in humanitarian crises. Work also included the evaluation and examination of the standardization proposal for national asylum/refuge systems, aiming to revisit the "Spirit of Cartagena" in accordance with national legislations. The benefits of regularizing refugees and migrants for receiving, transit, and returning States were highlighted, and progress was made towards complementarity between integration processes and processes of migration regularization and temporary protection.
- b.3.** Therefore, it is recommended to continue implementing the results of the "Regional Family Reunification Study" and validating and promoting the proposals of the "Regional Family Reunification Guide." To promote the implementation of the "Toolbox for Governments to strengthen National Asylum Systems through Digitalization in the Americas." To provide additional financial support and technical assistance to Member Countries implementing regularization programs. To validate and monitor the "Toolbox on migration regularization and socioeconomic integration" and the "Guide to good practices of Civil Society on migration regularization."

C. Action Dimension No. 3: Protection and Rights Access Approach

- c.1.** Aims to strengthen the protection of human rights and access to rights for refugees and migrants in line with current international frameworks. It includes the thematic areas of Gender Equity, Education, Health, COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS, Protection of Children, Orientation Centers and Support Spaces, and Human Trafficking. The activities outlined in the agenda of the IX Round of the Quito Process – Santiago Chapter II were developed thanks to the collaboration of Chile, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Canada, Italy, the European Union, the United States, Germany, IOM, UNHCR, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO/PAHO, ILO, and the R4V Platform.
- c.2.** During this IX Round, the following issues were addressed:
- c.2.1.** The proposal for the institutional response of Member States to the prevention and care of gender-based violence suffered by refugee and migrant women and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- c.2.2.** Further discussion on the need to strengthen collaboration with the "Regional Monitoring Framework on students in mobility," specifically regarding the access, permanence, and completion of the education of students in mobility.
- c.2.3.** Identifying the need to standardize antiretroviral therapy and establish a committee among Member Countries to ensure the implementation of the

Transborder Action Plan (TAP) and address the difficulties faced by migrants and refugees with HIV/AIDS.

c.2.4. The importance of including refugees and migrants in health protection systems and universal access to COVID-19 vaccination, mental health, and emergencies.

c.2.5. Strengthening the implementation of the "Operational Guide for transnational cooperation in the protection of migrant and refugee children."

c.2.6. Strengthening the networking of Orientation Centers and Support Spaces and the exchange of information for coordinated work between orientation centers and support spaces.

c.2.7. Emphasizing the role of the consular network in the attention, protection, early detection, and prevention of human trafficking.

c.3. Therefore, it is recommended to continue working on:

c.3.1. Mainstreaming the gender approach into migration management and training programs for officials on social protection and assistance to refugee and migrant women and LGBTQ+ individuals, victims of gender-based violence.

c.3.2. Monitoring and analyzing the educational trajectories of the migrant and refugee population at the regional level.

c.3.3. Desegregating and exchanging data between Member Countries for sentinel HIV surveillance and continuing efforts to ensure migrants in transit and host countries have access to combined prevention, early detection, and early access to ARV treatment with support and care throughout prevention and treatment cascades.

c.3.4. Monitoring and advancing the implementation of the Operational Guide for transnational cooperation in the protection of migrant and refugee children.

c.3.5. Continuing technical exchange between national and local authorities, orientation center managers, support space managers, regional international organizations, and civil society organizations, with special attention to frontline staff.

c.3.6. Implementing the Consular Guide Protocol for victims of human trafficking and advancing the validation of the Toolbox for early detection of victims of human trafficking.

D. Action Dimension No. 4: International and Regional Cooperation for the Quito Process System and its Member Countries.

d.1. This Dimension aims to strengthen inter-agency cooperation and deepen the strategic relationship with the countries of the Friends of the Quito Process Group, the R4V Platform, United Nations System Agencies, and other key actors for the governance of regional human mobility.

d.2. In the field of international cooperation, highlights include the development of Workshops on Comprehensive Border Management (CBM) and New Narrative on Human Mobility in collaboration with the European Union and their respective Policy Papers on these topics. Strengthening participation and collaboration with the R4V Platform in the Quito Process. Participation in the International Conference of Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants, their Countries, and Host Communities. Incorporation and participation of academic entities in the Quito Process.

- d.3.** Therefore, it is recommended to continue developing a roadmap on Comprehensive Border Management and New Narrative in accordance with national regulations, creating regular exchange spaces with the European Union within the framework of the Group of Friends of the Quito Process to identify cooperation avenues. The creation of the Journal on Human Mobility and International Protection of the Quito Process and analyzing, based on evidence, the impact of disasters and environmental degradation on human mobility.
11. To congratulate the in-person participation, for the first time, of the Pro Tempore Presidency (PPT) of the Quito Process in the 10th Global Meeting of Presidencies and Technical Secretariats of Intergovernmental Consultation Mechanisms on Migrations (GRCP, for its acronym in English), held in Geneva, Switzerland, in June 2023.
 12. To thank the Friends of the Quito Process Group, composed of Germany, Canada, Spain, the United States, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the World Bank, as well as the contributions of Norway and Sweden, and United Nations System Agencies for their constant technical and financial support and commitment expressed during the development of the IX Round, to Member Countries and the governance of regional human mobility. Hence, urging to increase efforts for technical and financial assistance and to continue reviewing and implementing the Portfolio of Projects of the Friends of the Quito Process Group to deepen international cooperation and regional human mobility management.
 13. To highlight the participation of new actors in the framework of the Agenda of the IX Round of the Quito Process, including the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Also, strengthening the participation of local governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector in the Quito Process.
 14. To continue strengthening the strategic alliance between the Quito Process and the R4V Platform, highlighting the reciprocal participation of the Platform in the activities of the IX Round of the Quito Process, as well as the consolidation of areas of cooperation and work on matters such as thematic meetings, information development, and a vision of shared solutions.
 15. To welcome the establishment of the Network of Networks of Academic Entities of the Quito Process and the participation of academic entities in thematic workshops and the 1st and 2nd Regional Meeting with Academic Entities and Specialists in the field of human mobility and international protection. Inviting the creation of a Journal on Human Mobility and International Protection of the Quito Process.
 16. To recognize the work carried out by the Technical Secretariat of the Quito Process, composed of officials from the Technical Secretariat of the Quito Process, composed of officials from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who are recognized for their technical assistance, monitoring of the Quito Process, inter-agency coordination, and support in multiple initiatives.
 17. To congratulate the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica for volunteering to organize the X Meeting of the Quito Process.
 18. To express gratitude and congratulations to the Government of the Republic of Chile for the organization, agenda, and development of the IX Round - Santiago Chapter II - of the Quito Process, of which the present Technical Meeting is a part.

This Joint Declaration of the IX Meeting - Santiago Chapter II - was drafted in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, with the aim of promoting greater awareness and dissemination.

Santiago, November 24, 2023.



Republic of Argentina



Federative Republic of Brazil




Republic of Chile



Republic of Colombia



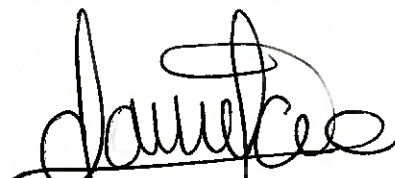
Republic of Costa Rica




Republic of Ecuador




Cooperative Republic of Guyana



United Mexican States



Republic of Paraguay



Republic of Peru



Oriental Republic of Uruguay

APPENDICES

- a) Joint Declaration of the Member Countries of the Quito Process for the International Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants and Their Host Countries and Communities.
- b) Executive Summary on the Action Dimensions and Thematic Areas of the Quito Process.
- c) Policy Papers on Comprehensive Border Management and a New Narrative on Human Mobility, developed in cooperation with the European Union.
- d) Agenda for the IX Round of the Quito Process.