

## **SPECIAL DECLARATION 2: ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

1. Highlighting the recognition by countries of Latin America and the Caribbean of the contribution of migrants to economic, cultural and social development of countries of destination and origin, and reaffirming the Special Declarations approved by CELAC on the matter, in particular the Special Declaration on the Protection of Migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Quito, Ecuador, on 27 January 2016.
2. We recognize that migration and the mixed migratory flows experienced by the CELAC region, merits a comprehensive, coordinated and co-responsible response from origin, transit, and destination States, with full respect to their sovereignty, in order to favor orderly, regular and safe migration processes that guarantee full respect for the fundamental human rights and freedoms of migrants and their relatives, regardless of their migration status, with special emphasis in groups in situation of vulnerability like women, and accompanied and non accompanied children and adolescents.
3. We highlight the importance of addressing the challenges that international migration raises for countries of origin, transit and destination, related to regularization, social inclusion and integration of migrant people, in equal and non-discriminating conditions, through the formulation of comprehensive and multisectoral public policies, within the framework of the Rule of Law and International Law, respecting the Sovereignty of States.
4. We condemn the acts of xenophobia, racism, discrimination, persecution and intolerance that have arisen globally against migrants and urge Member States of CELAC to agree on measures to counteract these acts.
5. We welcome the immigration agreement reached by the governments of Cuba and the United States of America on January 12, 2017, which ended the policy of wet feet-dry feet and the Parole Program for Cuban doctors, policies that were discriminatory and selective and affect the migratory flows in the region. We call upon the United States Congress, in the same spirit, to repeal the Cuban Adjustment Act.
6. We urge the International Community, and particularly those countries of origin, transit and destination, to ensure full respect for human rights of all migrants; to

avoid inadequate detention procedures, that hinder their legal, procedural and substantive rights and, when applicable, to guarantee return procedures, with necessary safeguards, regardless of their immigration status, without distinction or discrimination of any kind, and with particular attention to women, adolescents, and unaccompanied/separated girls and boys.

7. We commit to strengthening cooperation and coordination to address violations and serious abuses of the human rights of migrants, serious crimes such as illicit smuggling and human trafficking, and other types of abuse and exploitation.
8. We reiterate our commitment to carry out prevention and information campaigns on the rights of migrants in their country of origin, transit or destination, as well as to train and sensitize public officials on this topic in countries of origin, transit and destination, through the construction and development of regional identity in diversity.
9. We emphasize the importance of promoting the exchange of best practices among the States of the region, as well as the commitment to implement policies that recognize the benefits of migrants to the development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
10. We commend the commitments made at the 10th High-Level Meeting of the Structured and Global Dialogue on Migration, held on November 10 and 11, 2016, in the city of Santiago, Chile, especially regarding the implementation of Chapter Four On Migration of the CELAC-EU Action Plan and the preparation of a Joint Statistical Compendium on CELAC-EU Migration, and urge CELAC Member States to carry out respective monitoring and follow-up to ensure its effective implementation.
11. We welcome the offer of Mexico to organize a preparatory meeting, in view of the consultation and negotiation process of the *Global Pact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration* which, under the aegis of the United Nations, will take place in 2018, and we underline that agreements reached by CELAC in this subject, constitute an important input in this regard.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017