Committee on Migration Issues OEA/Ser.W

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WORK PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION ISSUES (CAM)

FOR THE 2022-2023 PERIOD

(Approved on February 2, 2023)

**INTRODUCTION**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes migration as a powerful driver and highlights its contribution to many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):  At least 10 of the 17 SDGs contain targets and indicators directly related to migration or human mobility.[[1]](#footnote-1)/ Similarly, target 7 of SDG 10 establishes the need to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

In addition, the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf) identifies migration as a multidimensional reality that must be addressed in the policy, legislative, and regulatory spheres, especially when recognizing the needs of these people as a vulnerable group in need of empowerment. This vulnerability is caused by violations of their human rights and multiple forms of discrimination and inequality, as well as other structural social dynamics derived from their socioeconomic status, race, gender, sexual orientation,[[2]](#endnote-1) disabilities, and other factors.[[3]](#footnote-2)/

With respect to gender, it should be noted that, according to the UN General Assembly, women represent almost half of the 244 million migrants and half of the 19.6 million refugees in the world; however, as migrants, they are the most invisible and subject to multiple forms of violence, not to mention the marked absence of a gender perspective in the theoretical approaches taken to the issue of migration in recent decades.[[4]](#footnote-3)/

According to UNICEF,[[5]](#footnote-4)/ one in every eight international migrants is a child and by the end of 2021, 36.5 million children were displaced from their homes as a result of conflict, poverty, or climate change, among other factors. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the number of migrant children and adolescents could reach 3.5 million. This figure, which also includes those living in host communities, represents an increase of 47 percent compared to 2021. In addition, children and adolescents and their families are exposed to multiple forms of violence, such as sexual abuse, trafficking, exploitation, and discrimination, all of which represent a compromised **humanitarian situation** for this population in the region.

As also stated in the Global Compact on Refugees regarding the guiding principles of humanity and international solidarity, the principles of burden-sharing and responsibility-sharing to better protect and assist migrants and to support host countries and communities are of utmost relevance in addressing these issues.

Thus, the protection and respect for the human rights of all persons on the move that make up mixed migratory flows are an obligation for States, which must guarantee their comprehensive protection regardless of the situation of those persons in the territory of a given State when crossing borders for different reasons. This shared responsibility makes it imperative to have sustainable governance of migration, which gives rise to a series of opportunities and challenges for adequately addressing these flows with an intersectoral approach: That includes, for example, promoting a process by which migration is integrated into policies in such areas as health, education, employment, and social security.[[6]](#footnote-5)/

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) recognizes that “effective migration governance is key to safer, more orderly and regular migration” and notes the importance of having in place regional migration regimes, as a matter of international scope and implications that transcends national borders and must be addressed multilaterally.[[7]](#footnote-6)/ It also highlights, the importance of immigration regularization as the main mechanism “for including and protecting the migrant population.”

Therefore, in view of the complexities arising from this phenomenon, a global political agenda has been configured in which, in addition to the States, various strategic actors are involved in an interinstitutional, intersectoral effort that involves international organizations, NGOs, think tanks, academic institutions, immigrant associations, etc., all of which also play a key role in protecting and assisting migrants.

The Americas region is currently facing one of the most severe migratory crises in recent decades, making international cooperation on the basis of shared responsibility indispensable in the face of a surge in irregular immigration and numbers of refugees, which have [overwhelmed the systems and infrastructure](https://www.vozdeamerica.com/a/costa-rica-denuncia-crisis-nicaraguense-pide-atencion-urgente-comunidad-internacional-/6758178.html) of different States.

Within the OAS, member states have agreed that the challenges and opportunities posed by international migration must be addressed in a coherent manner that reinforces and complements the responses adopted within the framework of the United Nations system and the international community, as well as recognizing how these phenomena are linked to the notion of development.

Therefore, the proposed work plan builds on the achievements of previous years and follows the mandates agreed upon within the framework of the Organization; therefore, it seeks to address migration issues in the Americas in a multidimensional way, with a rights-based approach, covering the social and economic dimensions from a national and regional perspective and with a gender focus, and aims to highlight the initiatives for dialogue and cooperation on migration and international protection adopted at the multilateral level, **and where the OAS is doing important cross-sector work**.

In this way, thematic meetings are proposed to examine the responses of the international community to address the humanitarian challenges of migration and the socioeconomic integration of migrant populations in the region: Emphasis on policies that States could adopt to provide social and healthcare services to migrant populations, with particular attention to populations in vulnerable situations. Public policies and best practices in the region to combat discrimination, xenophobia, and racism. At the macro level, continued attention should be given to aspects of migration governance such as regularization and the means for the admission and stay of migrants in order to facilitate their integration processes, and strengthening protection systems in the region.

At the end of the thematic meetings, the Chair will submit to the delegations proposed paragraphs to be included in the omnibus resolution prepared by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) for submission to the General Assembly at its next regular session.[[8]](#endnote-2)

The functions of the Committee on Migration Affairs (CAM) are set out in Article 58 of the Rules of Procedure for Regular and Special Meetings of CIDI.

**MANDATES**

This work plan of the Committee on Migration Issues is constructed around the mandates issued by the General Assembly and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to this Committee in the following resolutions:

1. AG/RES. 2738 (XLII-O/12) “Strengthening the Topic of Migration in the OAS: Establishment of the Committee on Migration Issues,” operative paragraphs 1 to 3 - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_18/CIDSC00047S02.doc) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_18/CIDSC00047E02.doc)
2. AG/RES. 2816 (XLIV-O/14) “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development,” operative paragraphs 18 to 22 - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_19/CIDSC00091S02.doc) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_19/CIDSC00091E02.doc)
3. AG/RES. 2881 (XLVI-O/16), “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development,” operative paragraphs 33 to 37 - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_18/CIDSC00048S02.doc) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_18/CIDSC00048E02.doc)
4. [AG/RES. 2883 (XLVI-O/16)](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=ag/doc.&classNum=5530&lang=s) “Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and Their Families,” operative paragraphs 1 to 3 - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_17/CIDSC00039S02.doc) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_17/CIDSC00039E02.doc)
5. AG/RES. 2910 (XLVII-O/17) “Migration in the Americas,” operative paragraphs 1 to 20 – [Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_17/CIDRP01967S02.doc) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_17/CIDRP01967E02.doc)
6. AG/RES. 2916 (XLVIII-O/18), “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development.” “Fostering the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families, in accordance with the inter-American program on this subject to enhance their contribution to development.” Operative paragraphs, 26 to 33 – [Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_18/CIDIS00003S02.doc) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_18/CIDIS00003E02.doc)
7. AG/RES. 2939 (XLIX-O/19) “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development.” “Fostering the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families, in accordance with the Inter-American Program on this subject to enhance their contribution to development.” Operative paragraphs 21 to 25 – [Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_19/CIDSC00090S02.doc) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_19/CIDSC00090E02.doc)
8. AG/RES. 2955 (L-O/20), Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development: Promoting Resilience”. “Fostering the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families, in accordance with the inter-American program on this subject to enhance their contribution to development.” Operative paragraphs 34 to 45 – [Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_21/CIDSC00158S02.docx) -[English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_21/CIDSC00158E02.docx)
9. AG/RES. 2967 (LI-O/21), “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development: Promoting Resilience”. “Fostering the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families, in accordance with the inter-American program on this subject to enhance their contribution to development.” Operative paragraphs 46 to 60 - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_22/CIDSC00185S02.docx) -  [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_22/CIDSC00185E02.docx)
10. AG/RES. 2988 (LII-O/22) “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development: Promoting Resilience”. “Fostering the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families, in accordance with the inter-American program on this subject to enhance their contribution to development.” Operative paragraphs 44 to 59  - [Español](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CIDSC00205S02.docx) -  [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_23/CIDSC00205E02.docx)

**PROGRAM STAKEHOLDERS**

1. Organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS and the inter-American system mentioned in this Program.
2. General Secretariat
3. Committee on Migration Issues (CAM)
4. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
5. Specialized agencies
6. Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
7. Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN)
8. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
9. OAS member states
10. Multilateral organizations
11. Other Actors – Urge civil society organizations and other actors, academia, and diaspora and migrant networks to take into account the objectives of this inter-American program in their activities, in keeping with their mandate and, as funding permits, with a view to possible cooperation between them and the CAM, OAS member states that so request, and the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization.

**ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR 2023**

**Date: February 2**

**First meeting**

1. Presentation of candidates for vice chair

**Second meeting**

1. Election of vice chair

2. Consideration and adoption of the 2023 work plan

**Thematic meetings**

**March**

* 1. **Thematic meeting:**

More-effective mechanisms to guarantee the full exercise of the rights of migrant children: systems for protecting the human rights of migrant children - efforts made at the regional level to improve the protection framework for migrant children and adolescents in accordance with the best interests of the child; as well as their relationship with the intersectional and differentiated approach in providing care for migrant children.

**April**

* 1. **Thematic meeting**

Humanitarian migration and border governance: Humanitarian corridors and stabilization of migrants according to the principle of freedom of movement. Situation of human mobility in Darien Region and Central America: food insecurity, exposure of migrants to natural hazards, transcontinental migration, and consequences of conflict and forced displacement.

* *Distribution of paragraphs to be included in the CIDI draft resolution.*

**May**

**3. Thematic meeting**

The economic rights perspective of migrants – Support for integration and employability pathways for migrants in collaboration with the ILO.

1. **Thematic meeting**

Annual meeting on migration governance and international and regional mechanisms and processes in the area of migration: Toward the development of an integral, hemispheric approach: Strengthening regional cooperation to improve migration governance and international protection in the Americas.

* *Negotiation of paragraphs to be included in the CIDI draft resolution*

**June**

**Conclusion of** negotiation of paragraphs to be included in the CIDI draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third regular session.

**CAM CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES – 2022-2023 PERIOD**

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| DATE | ACTIVITY |
| FEBRUARY 2, 2023  Thursday, 2:30 p.m. | **First session**  1. Presentation of candidates for the Vice Chair   1. **Second session** 2. 1. Election of the Vice Chair 3. 2. Presentation and Consideration of the 4. 2022-2023 Work Plan |
| MARCH 14, 2023  Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. | 1. **Thematic session**   More-effective mechanisms to guarantee the full exercise of the rights of migrant children: systems for protecting the human rights of migrant children - efforts made at the regional level to improve the protection framework for migrant children and adolescents in accordance with the best interests of the child; as well as their relationship with the intersectional and differentiated approach in providing care for migrant children. |
| APRIL 11, 2023  Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. | 1. **Thematic session**   Humanitarian migration and border governance: Humanitarian corridors and stabilization of migrants according to the principle of freedom of movement. Situation of human mobility in Darien Region and Central America: food insecurity, exposure of migrants to natural hazards, transcontinental migration, and consequences of conflict and forced displacement. |
| APRIL 28, 2023  Friday | ***Distribution of paragraphs to be included in the CIDI draft resolution.*** |
| MAY 9, 2023  Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. | 1. **Thematic session**   The economic rights perspective of migrants – Support for integration and employability pathways for migrants in collaboration with the ILO   1. **Thematic session**   Annual meeting on migration governance and international and regional mechanisms and processes in migration: Toward the development of an integral, hemispheric approach: Strengthening regional cooperation to improve migration governance and international protection in the Americas. |

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1. . [SDG | Migration Data Portal (migrationdataportal.org)](https://www.migrationdataportal.org/sdgs?node=0) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . Refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, internally-displaced persons, and stateless transgender and gender-diverse persons are among those most at risk of physical and psychological abuse, beatings, rape, torture and murder, because their visible gender expression is often perceived as a direct challenge to the dominant social norms in countries or areas of origin, transit, and destination*. Statement by Independent Experts on Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council*, at <https://news.un.org/es/story/2022/05/1508852> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
3. . [OHCHR | Migrants in vulnerable situations (ohchr.org)](https://www.ohchr.org/en/migration/migrants-vulnerable-situations) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. . ECLAC, CELADE, Migración internacional, derechos humanos y desarrollo, 2006. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. . <https://news.un.org/es/story/2022/11/1517007> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. . [Keys to Implement Initiatives on Migration and Development within the Framework of the 2030 Agenda | IOM Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean (iom.int)](https://rosanjose.iom.int/en/blogs/keys-implement-initiatives-migration-and-development-within-framework-2030-agenda#:~:text=Para%20abordarlas%20de%20manera%20adecuada%20y%20trabajar%20para,la%20educaci%C3%B3n%2C%20el%20empleo%20y%20la%20seguridad%20social.) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. . The combined frameworks of legal norms, laws and regulations, policies and traditions as well as organizational structures (subnational, national, regional and international) and the relevant processes that shape and regulate States’ approaches with regard to migration in all its forms, addressing rights and responsibilities and promoting international cooperation. (International Migration Law, No. 34, *Glossary on Migration*, IOM, 2019.) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. . Submission of paragraphs for the resolution that will be considered at the 2023 General Assembly will be subject to the decision taken by the Preparatory Committee regarding the drafting and negotiation of mandates. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)