COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION ISSUES OEA/Ser.W

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SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

THEMATIC SESSION OF THE CAM

" HUMANITARIAN MANAGEMENT OF 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 11, 2023

* **Recommendations by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

*Ms. Michele Klein Solomon, Regional Director for Central, North America and the Caribbean.*

* + Regional institutions have a key role to play in addressing and reducing the vulnerabilities faced by migrants and refugees; provide access to adequate documentation and improve consular protection and assistance throughout the migration cycle.
  + Instruments such as the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration are fundamental insofar as they recognize the importance of working on issues such as justice and development from a cooperative approach with organizations such as the OAS.
  + The efforts of States and organizations must focus on saving lives; promote and protect the human rights of all migrants and refugees without distinction and implement a comprehensive approach through which all aspects of migration are addressed from cooperation at all levels and in the spirit of shared responsibility.
* **Recommendations by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**

*Ms. Marisela Silva Chau, Head of the Regional Delegation for Panama and the Caribbean*

* + In the Darién Region there has been, in recent years, an increase in the movement of people both extracontinental and intercontinental. Many of these people flee situations of violence and face, in their migratory journey, situations of internal conflict typical of the countries through which they pass.
  + Increased migration flows in the Americas have exacerbated pressure on institutions in Central America and the rest of the region responsible for providing assistance and protection to migrants and refugees.
  + Currently there is talk of a migratory route with different chains that crosses and exceeds the borders of the continent. This characteristic is reflected in the high number of people of different nationalities who cross the Darién Region.
  + Humanitarian concerns in the Darién Region relate to lack of access to clean water, cases of sexual violence and extortion, family separation, and the increase in unaccompanied migrant children.
  + The ICRC focuses its work on three pillars: protection, cooperation and prevention. In these areas, the ICRC works with the authorities to ensure that the human remains of migrants and refugees are identified and returned to their families. In addition, they work hand in hand with the authorities that are in charge of regulations or measures in the field of protection or management of human remains to offer a coordinated response and manage the implementation of routes to assist victims of sexual violence.

*Ms. Anais Heloise Faure-Atger, Regional Advisor on Migration in the Americas.*

* + To achieve the implementation of the principle of shared responsibility, cooperative approaches must be developed that contribute to protecting and addressing the needs of migrants and refugees.
  + Shared responsibility should not replace the internal responsibility of States to manage migration flows.
  + Many people who were not vulnerable before making the decision to migrate face risks that make them vulnerable during their migration journey. This situation is of particular concern for children travelling unaccompanied and without the protection of their families.
  + Humanitarian migration management should focus on minimizing the risks faced by migrants on migration routes. The excessive use of force, the return of migrants and the denial of humanitarian assistance exacerbate the vulnerabilities faced by this population.
  + Humanitarian border management should be based on a human rights approach and not primarily on security issues.
  + It is necessary to strengthen transnational cooperation to identify missing migrants, locate separated family members and prioritize the best interests of the child. In the same way, it is important to have pathways for family reunification, betting that children do not undertake their journeys alone.
* **Recommendations by the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)**

*Mr. Daniel Arango, Project Director in Panama.*

* + The increase in migratory flows in the region is marked not only by the movement of extracontinental people seeking to reach the North, but also by a reverse flow of migrants coming from Mexico and Nicaragua through the Darién Region. These people have decided to return to their countries of origin due to barriers to entry into the country of destination and other conditions of violence.
  + In the last year, there has been an increase in extracontinental migrants from countries such as China, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. This situation has represented a challenge for the officials in charge of their assistance at border crossings due to the cultural and linguistic differences with this population.
  + Human trafficking networks have been responsible for spreading false information about the passage through the Darién Region with the aim of profiting from the need and lack of access to truthful information by migrants and refugees.
  + The transitory nature of the passage through the Darién Region has hindered the State's ability to offer services to migrants and refugees in need of protection.
  + Together with the ICRC, the PADF team in the Darién Region is carrying out work related to water purification, access to medical care, delivery of hygiene kits and training to protect the mental health of humanitarian workers.
  + It is essential to guarantee the participation of the indigenous communities that inhabit the Darién region and to promote their leadership at the local level.
  + The increase in migratory movements in the Darién Region has also had an environmental impact on water sources, fauna and flora due to the increase in garbage and the depletion of water sources.
  + There has been an improvement in coordination between government institutions, international organizations and civil society to carry out humanitarian border management. This is an opportunity that must continue to be nurtured to continue moving forward.

* **Recommendations by the Casa Refugiados A.C. Program**

*Mr. Gerardo Talavera, Director General*

* + The numbers of migrants and refugees in the region is a representative number of another large percentage that remains invisible. In this sense, the problem surrounding the transit of people must be addressed from different indicators.
  + South-to-north migration flows in our region are not new. However, they now have the characteristic of being diverse due to the increase in the number of nationalities of people transiting north.
  + Mixed migration flows in the region should be understood with respect to diversity and not with respect to the need for protection because all people have protection needs.
  + It is necessary to carry out more significant and representative diagnoses of the needs of migrants and refugees in order to be able to provide them with better accompaniment from civil society organizations.
  + Humanitarian support networks have strengthened coordination to provide shelter, health and education services.
  + From Casa Refugiados, public officials at all levels are sensitized so that there is empathy and recognition of the rights of migrants and refugees. The work of the state in this regard should be focused on providing services with a human rights approach and facilitating the protection of migrants and refugees.
  + Instruments with minimum guidelines should be developed to provide institutional responses to mixed migration flows. In addition, continuous training of officials, networking and identification of the causes of migration should be promoted.

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