Committee on Migration Issues OEA/Ser.W

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7 November 2023

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WORK PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION ISSUES (CAM)

FOR THE 2023-2024 PERIOD

(Approved on November 7, 2023)

**INTRODUCTION**

International migration is a multidimensional phenomenon that has wide-ranging impacts on countries of origin, transit, destination, and return. Indeed, 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 include 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. Well-managed migration accelerates inclusive growth and sustainable development, enriching societies through the social, economic, and cultural contributions of 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 huge 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 a number of states. These constant movements of people pose challenges for the governance of migration that can only be addressed in a comprehensive regional approach with a gender perspective, ensuring the protection of the rights of migrants and, in particular, of the most vulnerable.

Drivers of migration, such as poverty, inequality, slow economic growth, lack of decent work, labor market needs in destination countries, natural disasters, environmental degradation, climate change, violence, human rights violations, insecurity, and family ties continue to push migrants to move to other parts of the continent or migrate to the Americas from other regions.

The [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf) points to migration as a multidimensional reality that must be addressed my policies, laws, and regulations, especially when recognizing the needs of these people as a vulnerable group in need of empowerment. Since the adoption of the Compact, there has been some progress, but there is still limited access to regular migration channels, which is a contributing factor to the precarious living and working conditions of migrants and their families. 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)  Migrants often face limited access to adequate health and care services or education due to legal, financial, or administrative barriers. Too often they face exploitation and discrimination in the workplace. Migrant women are particularly exposed to sexual violence and gender-based discrimination. It is also necessary to observe migration processes in the region, considering their different causes and identifying both the different degrees of vulnerability and the multiple forms of discrimination to which migrants are exposed.

On the other hand, more and more States are incorporating migration into development plans and sectoral policies at the local, national, regional, and global levels. This includes, for example, the incorporation of migration into climate change adaptation and mitigation plans, national emergency preparedness and response, as well as public health and pandemic response plans.

As also addressed in the Global Compact on Refugees on the guiding principles of humanity and international solidarity, the principles of burden sharing and responsibility sharing play a key part in addressing these issues to better protect and assist migrants and support host countries and communities.

We OAS member states have agreed that the challenges and opportunities of international migration must be addressed in a balanced manner by promoting public policies based on empirical realities, and attempting to ensure that international migration is conducted in an orderly, safe, and regular fashion, recognizing the obligation of States to protect the rights of migrants, regardless of their immigration status, with full respect for human rights and national laws.

Based on this, thematic meetings are proposed to address the structural causes of migration, xenophobia, the promotion of socioeconomic integration, inclusion, and empowerment of migrants. Also, care and protection for victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, specialized care and protection for accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, and strengthening the shared responsibility of regional cooperation to improve migration governance and international protection in the Americas.

Thus, the proposed work plan builds on the achievements of previous plans 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 multilateral initiatives for dialogue and cooperation on migration and international protection in which the intersectoral work of the OAS plays an important part.

At the end of the thematic meetings, the Chair will propose to the delegations certain 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.[[4]](#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 1-3:

[Spanish](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_18/CIDSC00047S02.doc) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_18/CIDSC00047E02.doc)

1. 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)
2. 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)
3. [AG/RES.](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=ag/doc.&classNum=5530&lang=s)2883 (XLVI-O/16) “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)](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=ag/doc.&classNum=5530&lang=s) - [English](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_17/CIDSC00039E02.doc)
4. 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)
5. 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)
6. AG/RES. 2939 (XLIX-0/19) “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)
7. 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)
8. 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)
9. 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 IN THE 2023-2024 TERM**

**2023:**

**November**

**Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023**

**First meeting**

1. Presentation of candidates for vice chair

**Second meeting**

1. **First thematic session:**

“Addressing the structural causes of migration”

2. Election of vice chair

3. Presentation of the 2023 Work Plan for consideration and adoption

**2024:**

**January:**

**Joint Thematic Sessions:**

**Second thematic session:**

Best practices for a culture of respect, tolerance, and human rights to combat xenophobia.

**Third thematic session**

Promoting socioeconomic integration, inclusion, and empowerment of migrants

**February:**

**Joint Thematic Sessions:**

**Fourth thematic session**

Care and protection of victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling

**Fifth thematic session**

Access to health services and disease prevention for migrants.

**March:**

* 1. **Sixth thematic session**

Specialized assistance and protection of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents

* 1. Discussions on the presentation of draft paragraphs on migration to be transmitted by CIDI to

the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth regular session

**April**

1. **Seventh thematic session**

Strengthening shared but differentiated responsibility regarding regional cooperation to improve migration governance and international protection in the Americas.

* 1. Final discussions on the draft paragraphs on migration that CIDI will transmit to the General

Assembly at its fifty-fourth regular session.

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 trans and gender-diverse people are among those most at risk of**physical and psychological abuse**, beatings, rape, torture and murder, as their visible gender expression is often perceived as a direct challenge to dominant social norms in countries or areas of origin, transit, and destination. Statement by *Independent* Experts based on  [Special Procedures](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council) of the [Human Rights Council](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/home) of the United Nations in <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. The presentation of paragraphs for the resolution to be considered at the 2024 General Assembly will be subject to the decision taken by the Preparatory Committee regarding the drafting and negotiation of mandates.

   CIDRP04011E01 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)