



Special Communiqué on Situation of Migrants’ Human Rights

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3rd December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).
2. Welcomes the outcome of the Regional Meeting on the Protection of Migrants, held on June 27 and 28, 2011 in Lima, Peru.
3. Likewise, they reaffirmed their concern about the situation of vulnerability of migrants and their families due to the permanent violation of their Human Rights and the lack of protection; therefore, they encourage States to improve their national, binational and regional efforts to move forward in full strengthening of social and economic development in our region, to free it from all factors that encourage international migration, and respecting its character of free choice.

4. They take note of the Agreements reached in the Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Organized Crime and Migrant's Security, held in Mexico City on 8th October, 2010, and urge the authorities of the participating countries to keep progressing on the fulfilment of these agreements
5. They highlight the need to promote coordinated actions of Latin American and Caribbean governments to face, combat and punish, with all the force of law, based on international conventions and national legislations to this issue, the illicit smuggling of migrants and human trafficking in the counties of origin, transit and destination of migrants. Furthermore, they recognize the need to foster and reformulate joint regional actions and strategies, as well as bilateral actions, to promote assistance and protection programs for migrants in the origin, transit and destination societies.
6. They express their rejection of the criminalization of migrants. In this sense, they are strongly committed to fight against racism and xenophobia to which migrants and their families may be subjected to promoting the recognition of their capabilities as political, economic, cultural and scientific actors,

fundamental to foster development and integration processes both in the origin and destination societies that contribute to development processes both in origin, transit and destination societies.

7. In addition, they reiterate their utmost support to all national and regional efforts that address the challenges of migration from an integral perspective, based on the principles of tolerance, solidarity, complementarity, gender equality, justice, social inclusion and social equity, with emphasis in the full respect of human rights of migrants and their families, reasserting the responsibility that origin, transit and destination countries shall assume in the migratory process.
8. They acknowledge migrants as the axes of migratory policies and the promotion of safe migrations, flexible and permanent mechanisms of regularization in destination countries, and policies that strengthen their integration of migrants; with special safeguards for the most vulnerable collectives.
9. They reaffirm the importance of defending a positive agenda on the migratory issue, where the specificity of Latin American and Caribbean



migration is recognized, additionally, they stress the recognition of the benefits of interculturality as a contribution that migrants have made to origin and destination countries, including the promotion and intensification of programs generating synergies between migration and development.

10. They express their concern for the impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the socio-economic situation, as well as concern for the deterioration of the working and employment conditions of the migrant workers and their families.