



**IBERO-AMERICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**FIBEMYD**

**Cuenca, Ecuador, 10-11 April 2008**

*CONCLUSIONS*

# IBERO-AMERICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT FIBEMYD

## CONCLUSIONS

### 1. The Montevideo Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development

The heads of state and government of the Ibero-American Community of Nations, met at the 16<sup>th</sup> Montevideo Summit, held in Uruguay in November 2006. There, they adopted the “Montevideo Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development”, which is one of the most important texts of the Ibero-American project since it was established in 1991. Respecting each state’s sovereignty in developing its own migrant policies, the Commitment comprises a positive agenda that contains decisions aimed at confronting new challenges by means of the creation of a space in which to handle the matter at the highest political levels. The first part of the Commitment reaffirms common principles, while the second part, as stated in its extensive paragraph 25, contains operational commitments that establish the starting point for the development of an enormous and coordinated task on migration and development.

### 2. The Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (FIBEMYD)

The establishment and organisation of this forum was a decision taken by the heads of state and government that are part of the Montevideo Commitment: *“With the objective of complying with the directives contained in the Salamanca Statement and in this Commitment, to establish and organise an Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development in 2008. This Forum will represent a site for exchanging good practices and coordination in order to reach agreements and initiatives that are shared by the Ibero-American nations regarding this matter. We would like to note the offer of Ecuador that the city of Cuenca is the seat for the Forum’s next meeting.”* (paragraph 25.q.)

At the 17<sup>th</sup> Summit held in Santiago de Chile in November 2007, the heads of state and government similarly signed the Santiago Statement and its Action Programme. Article 17 of the statement highlights the importance of the Montevideo Commitment, and paragraph 21 of the Action Programme contains the following mandate: *“Entrust the Forum of Cuenca, to be held during 2008, with the design of an Action Programme that, according to the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development, promotes the protection of migrants’ human rights.”*

### 3. Organisation, objectives and development of FIBEMYD

In compliance with the Montevideo Commitment, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) was entrusted with the organisation of the Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development, for which it had the cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) through its Latin America and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Ecuadorian Government and the Municipality of Cuenca.

The Forum was held in Cuenca on 10-11 April 2008 and was attended by representatives of governments and international organisations, academics and experts on migration and development and representatives of networks of civil organisations.

The Montevideo Commitment and the Santiago Statement Action Programme were the framework of reference for the organisation and definition of FIBEMYD topics. It also took into consideration the experiences of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, FMMD, and regional consultation processes.

The **inaugural ceremony**, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, María Isabel Salvador, saw participation from the following dignitaries: Mr Marcelo Cabrera Palacios, mayor of Cuenca; Mr Enrique V. Iglesias, Ibero-American general secretary; Mr Brunson McKinley, director general of the International Organization for Migration; Mr Dirk Jaspers, director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) on behalf of Mr José Luis Machinea, ECLA executive secretary; Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, president of Spain, and Mr Manuel Zelaya Rosales, president of Honduras, both via pre-recorded video conferences; Mrs Margarita Escobar, vice minister of Foreign Affairs for Salvadorians Abroad on behalf of the pro tempore presidency of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ibero-American Summit; Mr Ronald B. Allarey, ambassador of the Philippines in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of Mr. Esteban Conejos, undersecretary for Philippine Migrant Worker Affairs, pro tempore presidency of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD); Mrs Lorena Escudero, minister of the National Secretary of Migration (SENAMI) of Ecuador; and Mr Adolfo Jiménez, General Secretary of the Ibero-American Social Security Organisation (OISS).

During the inaugural ceremony, an agreement was signed on inter-institutional cooperation among the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the International Organization on Migration (IOM). This agreement is the initial result of the meeting because these bodies have committed to establishing a coordinated area of collaboration, which will benefit from their work experiences and complementary mandates regarding migration and development, towards cooperation in the implementation of the Montevideo Commitment and the Action Programme entrusted to FIBEMYD.

The **closing ceremony** had the following participants: Mr Jaime Astudillo Romero, chancellor of the University of Cuenca; Mr Enrique V. Iglesias; Mr Marcelo Cabrera Palacios and Mr Fernando Cordero, vice-president of the Constituent Assembly.

High-level political representatives of 22 member countries of the Ibero-American Conference participated at FIBEMYD, as well as representatives of other guest countries and international and regional organisations, including the European Commission, and representatives of regional consultation processes, such as the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) and representatives of the MERCOSUR Specialised Forum on Migration and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). Civil society also played an important role, mainly through representatives of networks related to migration.

The active participation of 32 speakers and commentators must be highlighted, who provided valuable analytical documents on migration and development, as well as good practices to be implemented in the Ibero-American area. This valuable material will be systematised, published by SEGIB and distributed during the 18<sup>th</sup> Summit, which will be held in San Salvador in October 2008.

As stated in the summons, the **objectives** of this meeting of the Forum were the following:

**General Objective:** To assure that FIBEMYD is the ideal space for the exchange of good practices and shared actions about migration and development and to consolidate cooperation routes that contribute to continuing the implementation and monitoring of the mandates of the Salamanca Statement, the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development and the Santiago Statement Action Programme.

**Specific Objectives:**

- To design an Action Programme on migration that, according to the Montevideo Commitment, fulfils the mandate established in the 17<sup>th</sup> Santiago Summit.
- To discuss the results of the study on migration and development and identify the challenges and possibilities are imposed by relationships between migration, development and human rights in the Ibero-American region.
- To analyse good practices that could be duplicated in the Ibero-American area in order to assure that migration is a dignified, secure and organised process.
- To consolidate different and efficient routes of coordination, cooperation and convergence between FIBEMYD and the multilateral advisory bodies on migration and development.
- To promote the participation of networks of civil society organisations involved with migration in FIBEMYD.

FIBEMYD works were organised into six sessions and one round table, which were chaired by representatives of the member states and were attended by speakers and commentators covering the following subjects:

**Introductory Session: Migration and Development.** This included the assessment of the document on migration and development developed by ECLAC/CELADE in coordination with SEGIB, also using the input from IOM, the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) and the MERCOSUR Specialised Forum on Migration.

**Session I: Remittances sent by Migrants.** The discussion was cantered on experiences and good practices to reduce the costs of transferences and migrants' access to the financial products offered by banks. This session also included an approach to shared funding experiences such as 3 to 5x1, developed in several Ibero-American countries.

**Session II: Information campaigns on human rights, on fighting the trade of persons and the illegal traffic of migrants and on preventing irregular Migration.** This discussion was centred on the experiences of regional consultation processes on information campaigns, particularly of the RCM, IOM and other countries that have also produced campaigns of this nature.

**Session III: Regular temporary migration programmes for work purposes.** The discussion reviewed important initiatives in Ibero-American countries that contributed to better management of temporary migratory flows for work purposes.

**Session IV: Integration of Migrants.** The discussion included the presentation of the document developed by ECLAC/CELADE on the social and economic impact of the

insertion of migrants in three selected Ibero-American countries, as well as good practices in this respect and the relevance of local management in executing integration programmes.

**Session V: Liaison with Emigrated Nationals.** This discussion considered liaison initiatives developed by some states with their communities abroad, the complementariness of return and co-development programmes that also contribute to strengthening the liaison of emigrated nationals with their countries of origin.

**Round Table: Design of an Action Programme and Cooperation Methods to Implement the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development.** Aimed at fulfilling the Santiago Statement, the main objective of this round table was to identify the action lines that are required in order to progress in the execution of the operative commitments agreed upon by the heads of state and government in their 16<sup>th</sup> Summit.

#### **4. Main conclusions**

According to its aims, good practices and learned lessons were presented in the FIBEMYD sessions. The following conclusions do not detail them, because they are stated in the corresponding papers which will be included in the meeting's final report – it will be distributed during the 18<sup>th</sup> Ibero-American Summit, to be held in San Salvador in October 2008. The conclusions summarise the main facts and aspects, as well as the suggestions for action, obtained from the experiences and reflections made during the sessions.

##### ***Introductory Session: Migration and Development***

According to paragraph 25.q of the Montevideo Commitment, the document Migration and Development was presented in this session. It was developed by ECLAC/CELADE in coordination with SEGIB and input from the IOM, the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) and the MERCOSUR Specialised Forum on Migration. This document, apart from placing migratory processes within their social, economic and political contexts and reviewing the main interrelations between those processes and the basic dimensions of development, also identifies many good practices implemented in the region.

- a) The handling of the relationship between migration and development, as well as public policies and research in this field, must be confronted from a perspective that recognises migrants' contributions to their countries of destination —both developed and developing countries— and promotes the implications of migratory phenomena on the development of the countries of origin.
- b) Migratory matters must be the focus of economics and politics, i.e. there is the need to "migratise" development policies in order to establish bridges between the framework contexts and the specific actions and programmes, with the triple objective of making the most of the potential of migration, channelling them legally and deactivating migratory pressures.

- c) The relation between migration and development must go beyond economic dimensions, incorporating demographic, social, cultural, political and human rights implications, both at macro and micro levels, covering the family, community and regional levels.
- d) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation must be strengthened in strategic areas, mainly regarding remittances, organised management of migratory flows, promotion and protection of human rights, prevention and fight against the trade of persons and the illegal traffic of migrants and treatment of illegal migration and participation of civil society.
- e) Possessing trustworthy information on the multiple dimensions and complex realities regarding migratory phenomena in Ibero-America is especially important in order to develop public policies and migratory programmes. Specialised international organisations are being called upon to play an important role in this regard.
- f) The increasing participation of women in migratory flows is one of the most important matters of the Ibero-American migratory scenario. It must be recognised that the migration of women entails a contribution to their families, communities and countries of origin and destination. There is a need to identify the situations that prevent the empowerment of women and that replicate gender inequities. Furthermore, vulnerabilities associated with the migration of women, particularly trade, is a matter deserving the highest priority in Ibero-America.
- g) The gender and human rights approach must be present as a core component of the Ibero-American migratory agenda.
- h) Emigrant remittances are not the magical cure for national development, despite the fact that it is indubitable that, due to their level and dynamics, they play very important roles in the economies and the welfare levels of individuals, families and communities, including the relief of poverty.
- i) Lack of development is not fixed through emigration, so it is essential to pay special attention to development and employment policies and to promote public and private investments.
- j) The emigration of human capital continues to be a problem in the region: high selectivity, together with scarce circulation and liaison of emigrants with their countries of origin tends to limit the national resources that are necessary to increase competitiveness. Return and liaison are aspects that must be considered complementarily, through the best practices promoted from the states and with the active participation of civil society.
- k) Liaison with the communities of nationals abroad, imposed due to the same characteristics of globalisation and transnationality, requests the reaffirmation of human rights, assuring their protection beyond national borders, together with the effective strengthening of citizenship rights.
- l) The promotion of opportunities offered by today's migrations, through remittances and transnational communities, must take into account the high importance of regulatory and institutional contexts —economic, political and socio-cultural— for the development of countries.
- m) The social integration of migrants, viewed through the protection of their rights, must be promoted more in all Ibero-American receptor countries, because it is crucial to ensure the functioning of social cohesion mechanisms and the exercise of rights and responsibilities amongst migrants, also

representing a fundamental tool to fight against xenophobia and discrimination.

- n) General access to international law instruments, belonging both to the United Nations System and the Inter-American System, is basic for migrants to achieve the full exercise of their human rights. There is also the need to thoroughly review national legislations in order to advance in adapting them to the principles and commitments established in the aforementioned documents. In this context, the ratification of the Convention on Rights of all Migrant Workers and their Families must be considered a basic foundation to move forward in the governability of migrations in the Ibero-American space.
- o) The strengthening of dialogue instances and policy coordination, as well as the convergence of activities amongst these instances in specific areas, is vital.
- p) Civil society plays an essential role in the development of migration governability. The close connection between civil society and governments, materialised through the development of joint programmes and activities, as well as in the establishment of national debates, forums and regional consultation processes, is of maximum relevance to move forward in the Ibero-American migratory agenda.
- q) The heritage of good practices regarding migration and development that have been implemented by governments, the IOM, the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) and the MERCOSUR Specialised Forum on Migration and civil society (many of them included in the ECLAC/CELADE document). They establish a point of reference and are beginning to be replicated in the Ibero-American space. Intergovernmental agreements and those between governmental sectors, both private and in civil society, should also be promoted to extend good practices.

### ***Session I: Remittances sent by Migrants***

The Montevideo Commitment states in its paragraph 25.x the need to promote the necessary measures to facilitate the transfer of remittances and to identify mechanisms to reduce sending costs, guarantee the transparency of the transfer process and reduce hidden costs. Good practices such as the Ecuadorian government's initiative regarding the establishment of the Migrant's Bank; the Spanish government's practice on codevelopment, banking and cost reductions; codevelopment programs such as the Mexican Three For One and Cuenca's One for Two, as well as others included in the papers presented during this session were analysed. These experiences represent invaluable input and very useful learned lessons for public managers, international and civil society organisations and for the implementation of the Ibero-American programme on migration.

- a) Remittances, which are private resources for migrants whose rights must be preserved, are neither a magical cure for development nor a mechanism capable of replacing the central responsibility of each state regarding development and social equity policies.
- b) The consensus on remittances and development through the implementation of good practices is increasingly general, but there is still an open debate

regarding the methods to promote this development as well as the migrants' level of inclusion and the nature of the initiatives in this regard. Overall, these three components can contribute to ensuring the employment of good practices and their implementation in the countries receiving remittances.

- c) The task of designing solutions that can be applied to different contexts must take into account the characteristics of good practices, i.e. a high level of correspondence between reality and existing needs, authority and belonging towards the beneficiaries (access), long term self-sustainability and the possibility of replicating them in different circumstances.
- d) Furthermore, it is essential to possess the empirical and applied knowledge of the status of local economies' productive base where experiences are to be replicated; the efficiency and capability of absorbing external resources by the local production sector is a matter to consider in order for the initiatives to be successful.
- e) Along with the previous paragraph, the presence of a state policy with the ability to influence the social and economic environment where the remittances are operating is of vital importance.
- f) The need to open and build areas for migrants to participate in development is a necessity and must be the focus of migratory policies in general and on remittances in particular.
- g) The experiences analysed on policy and management initiatives for development, linked to activities abroad and remittances, allowed key points to be identified where it is necessary to move forward in the Ibero-American region, including the following:

(1) Decreasing informality, improving competitiveness, continuing to reduce sending costs and offering incentives to improve transfer technologies.

(2) Adapting the law to allow for non-banking institutions, such as microfinancing institutions, MFIs, to be able to pay remittances.

(3) Accelerating economic mediation projects with credit unions and MFI's.

4) Making banks commit to providing greater financial services to migrants and their families.

(5) Supporting projects to improve investment opportunities between home and abroad.

(6) Designing products that include education and health services.

(7) Providing technical advice on finances and knowledge on remittances, training migrants about their rights, obligations and potential benefits as clients of the banking system. The relationship of this matter to illegal migrants deserves special attention.

(8) Making the government and the private sector commit to the development of policies that promote greater access to the financial system and to financial mediation for the recipient of remittances.

(9) Duly taking into account the macroeconomic dimension of remittances.

(10) Strengthening liaisons with communities abroad.

(11) Promoting alliances with non-profit activities of community associations.



(12) Moving forward in knowledge transparency, using the migrants' interest in conveying their practical experiences to create economic development in their places of origin and the interest of governments with similar views.

(13) Improving statistics and information systems on remittances.

### ***Session II: Information Campaigns***

The Montevideo Commitment entrusts the SEGIB with the identification of cooperation mechanisms to contribute to states' efforts to develop special information campaigns on migrants' human rights. Furthermore, it states the need to strengthen diffusion and awareness mechanisms and train the population to prevent and fight the trade of persons and the illegal traffic of migrants and on the risks of illegal migration (25.c, d) and j)). The experiences on communication strategies and government campaigns, especially in Portugal, those implemented by IOM in many countries of the region, including an experience at the Triple Border (Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil), as well as the experiences of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) were presented during the session. A number of civil society organisations also took great efforts in this matter, as was stated during the session.

- a) Moving forward in migration governability requires changes to the frequent perception of migrants to eradicate discriminatory or xenophobe practices and human rights violations.
- b) There is a need to strengthen the information and training activities about migrant rights, on the violation of those rights, usually associated with the migration itself, especially with regard to women and children, as well as to strengthen the positive contribution of migration to the societies of origin and destination.
- c) Furthermore, it is necessary to promote campaigns of diffusion, awareness and training in order to strengthen the fight against the trade of persons and illegal migrant trafficking and to provide warnings about the risks entailed by irregular migration, especially for women and children.
- d) Effective action in this regard requires the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its complementary protocols: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking of Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. National legislations must be adapted to comply with these international instruments.
- e) Given that the trade of persons and illegal migrant trafficking are transnational crimes, their prevention and control requires a multilateral initiative, including information and awareness strategies.
- f) It is particularly relevant for information campaigns to be supported by a solid state and to be linked to access to mechanisms that facilitate information and reporting, as well as protection and support of victims of these crimes.
- g) There are many and valuable examples of good practices, particularly regarding the prevention of trade of persons and illegal migrant trafficking, which can contribute important input when designing regional strategies that simultaneously involve the countries of origin, transit and destination.

Prevention is considered the action area with the best medium-term results, and this matter is considered when carrying out actions.

- h) The experiences presented during the session highlight the most significant aspects and the extremely important lessons learned that must be considered when implementing integral communication strategies at an Ibero-American level.

### ***Session III: Regular programmes of temporary migration for work purposes***

The Montevideo Commitment urges the prioritisation of different temporary migration methods for work purposes within the framework of specific conventions and projects among countries that contribute to improving the possibilities of migrant workers, benefiting the countries of destination and helping develop the country of origin (25.v). Experiences with temporary migration programmes for work purposes in Ecuador, Mexico, Spain and Peru, as well as the IOM and Guatemala, were emphasised during the session, along with these programmes' significant characteristics, their key elements and their common and different points.

- a) Temporary migration programmes for work purposes are a potentially beneficial instrument for the development of both the countries of origin and destination, as well as helping to fight against illegal practices that involve migrant workers, thus protecting their rights.
- b) There is a need for the temporary migration programmes for work purposes to develop instruments leading to the improvement of migrants' working qualifications, in order to ensure a true impact and benefit in the communities and countries of origin, and to contribute to social and occupational mobility of workers after their return.
- c) In the Ibero-American area, there is a need to promote temporary migration programmes for work purposes that contribute to codevelopment through training methods that are compatible with the needs of the workers' countries of origin in order to effectively turn them into agents of development in their communities.
- d) One of these programmes' objectives is to assure the cyclical movement and rotation of workers. However, there is a need to establish rules that can be followed by participants and, if they wish, they can also project migratory stability and even take part in longer voluntary return processes.
- e) There is not just one model to manage temporary migration programmes for work purposes, as was proved through the presented experiences. All of them are acceptable options for preventing and fighting against the increasing irregularities and illegality of migratory flows, especially of workers with low qualifications.
- f) The agreements, programmes and solutions formulated to manage temporary migrations for work purposes in the Ibero-American space must include the gender approach and contemplate principles and dispositions for the protection and respect of workers' human rights, and be carried out within a framework of human rights equality for national and foreign workers.
- g) Furthermore, due to their nature, these types of agreements and programmes must consider the human consequences of their contents and duly assess

their social, psychological and family effects, particularly for those staying in the countries of origin.

- h) It is important that policies and programmes on temporary migration for work purposes take into account information and diffusion mechanisms, including the opportunities offered by temporary migration for work purposes, the requirements needed and contractual conditions. At the same time, the workers' training and strategies for insertion, adaptation and interaction in the host society must be ensured.
- i) Consular management in the framework of programmes related to temporary migration for work purposes is highly relevant and, therefore, its involvement from the beginning of the process is indispensable.
- j) It is interesting to comparatively analyse the agreements and programmes on temporary migrant workers that are currently being executed in the Ibero-American space in order to extract and assess the most effective practices. The lessons learned during the implementation of these programmes can serve as a reference for the region's countries that plan to promote these types of programmes.
- k) The experiences of Ecuador, Spain, Mexico, Peru and IOM-Guatemala presented during the session, represent valuable background information. Together with other bilateral programmes on temporary migration for work purposes currently in force in Ibero-America, they establish a platform to extend actions that promote migratory contributions to development in both the countries of origin and destination, as well as preventing illegal migration and assuring that human rights are respected.

The ambassador of Uruguay participated in order to propose the establishment of an Ibero-American institute on migrations, with headquarters in his country. He based this proposal on the need for reliable statistical information. It would be a research centre with a section devoted to creating consensus within the Ibero-American Summit, as well as promoting bilateral and regional policies and agreements.

#### ***Session IV: Integration of Migrants***

The Montevideo Commitment establishes principles and commitments on the different aspects of this relevant matter for the Ibero-American area, as well as the mandate to SEGIB to coordinate, in collaboration with ECLAC, a study on the social and economic impact of the insertion of migrants in the countries of destination (25.u).

The study carried out by ECLAC/CELADE on the impact of migrant insertion in three selected countries, Argentina, Costa Rica and Spain, as well as the experiences on integration developed by MERCOSUR, Spanish Government public policies and programmes and those executed within the local management framework of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces were presented during this session.

- a) The integration of immigrants both in the labour market and in society as a whole is extremely important in Ibero-America. Integration strengthens societies' democratic natures and increases migrants' sense of belonging in the destination society, as well as their social recognition in equal conditions and the exercise of their rights.

- b) The recognition of migrants also represents a citizenship matter and it is not only the exclusive responsibility of the state.
- c) Exercising politics in Ibero-America and its corresponding democratic responsibility are required so that the migratory issue is not used as a weapon of electoral confrontation preventing the establishment of opinions leading to social stigmatisation, xenophobia and discrimination against immigrants.
- d) Integration policies require a set of integral actions in order to ensure a framework of rights that are enjoyed by immigrants, as well as a shared responsibility among the different levels of administration and civil society organisations.
- e) It is essential to move forward in dealing with illegal migration, given that without migratory regulation integration cannot be achieved. As stated in the Salamanca Statement and the Montevideo Commitment, this matter represents both a political and social challenge.
- f) The existence of distortions in labour markets and social protection systems do not contribute to suitable migrant insertion and integration; on the contrary, they represent a risk that feeds and deepens inequalities, exclusion and social conflicts.
- g) Adequate supervision of labour markets is a strategy to value the productive input of immigrant workers, ensure mechanisms to organise job offers and control working standards in decent jobs.
- h) Border control and integration policies must be harmonised in receiving countries to prevent contradictory responses to international migration, as well as to ensure migrants' human rights regardless of their migratory condition.
- i) Regularisation of immigrants in receiving societies is conceived as an initial step to integration and to advancing towards the safeguard of people's citizenships.
- j) Adopting different social inclusion strategies, corresponding to universal policies, can be a tool so that immigrants' social and cultural particularities do not create barriers to enjoying employment, social, cultural and political rights.
- k) The search for an agreement in migratory decision-taking and management processes among the different involved parties (i.e., the state at all different levels, market players especially employers, civil society including immigrant communities and their organisations) is an indispensable requirement to having more in-depth integration policies.
- l) There is a need to improve the development of projects that involve intercultural matters because they promote communication and critical dialogue by building on shared values. In this context, awareness-raising policies must also be involved in this intercultural approach.
- m) The development of awareness and support programmes for the coexistence of immigrants and local residents has proven its utility in widening the fields of action of public integration policies.
- n) In the Ibero-American area, there is an important and valuable heritage of good practices on integration that should be assessed so that they can be extended as a way to move forward in recognising fundamental migrant rights. Along this line, Argentine, Costa Rican and Spanish initiatives show progress both at a regulatory level and in the execution of sectorial programmes that ensure migrant access to health and education.

- o) Local management of migrant social integration programmes has proven to be an appropriate tool, given the higher contact with immigrants at this level of intervention. The actions promoted by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities, the Municipality of Getafe and the Council of Andalusia could become reference frameworks for the region's countries of destination.
- p) The Argentine Patria Grande Programme is a good practice that merits mention due to its transcendence and impact on immigrant social integration, as well as its contribution to achieving sub-regional social cohesion within the framework of MERCOSUR integration policies. The progress registered in the latter also represents a reference framework for other regional integration processes.
- q) Dialogue between states and other relevant stakeholders regarding migrations must include the results and scopes of implemented good practices in order to decrease the risk of social conflicts entailed by migratory processes.

### *Session V: Liaison with Emigrated Nationals*

The Montevideo Commitment states the relevance of establishing liaison mechanisms with emigrated nationals in order to preserve their cultural identity, facilitate their contact with their countries of origin and strengthen transnational networks and migrant associations. Furthermore, it states the need to strengthen the network of consulate services to efficiently support nationals abroad (25.f). It also highlights the importance of creating adequate social and economic conditions to make the voluntary return of migrants to their communities of origin and their incorporation in national development processes possible (25.b).

Liaison experiences with emigrated nationals implemented by the Chilean and Salvadorian governments, as well as the role played by codevelopment in this liaison through practices being executed by the Autonomous Region of Madrid and the Autonomous Region of Murcia were presented during the session. Furthermore, good practices are being implemented by other countries and international and civil society organisations.

- a) Liaison policies with emigrated nationals and those returning are part of the states' efforts to recover the migrated population; both require a firm assurance of human rights.
- b) These policies must operate not only with the objective of attracting emigrated nationals, but also with the aim of making the results of related policies influence emigration causes. This would acknowledge the right to not emigrate that is held by all citizens of any country.
- c) There is a need to create initiatives to promote the return of those emigrated nationals that wish to do so. Cooperation among countries, international and civil society organisations is essential to overcome the complexities associated with these programmes. Furthermore, there is a need to consider that those return programmes lacking reintegration components are not sustainable in the medium term.
- d) Liaison with emigrated nationals must admit the promotion of transnationalism. The debate on the political rights of emigrated nationals and emigration in general cannot be absent.

- e) In their liaison programmes, Latin American and Caribbean countries of origin must also work with those immigrants received in the region's countries in order to advance dialogue on intraregional migration. An important task for Ibero-American Summits is to support this effort, as well as the convergence of actions in regional consultation processes in this matter. Along this line, the experiences of Chile and Argentina could be systematised in order to serve as a reference in the region, among other actions.
- f) Liaisons with emigrated nationals must to be integrated into administrative structures that can ensure their conversion into public policies, as is the case of the experiences presented during the session, especially where these programmes are executed at the highest political levels.
- g) Liaison programmes must not be built solely on relations with legal immigrants; it is important to consider that illegal migrant situations are where most cases of human and working rights violations occur. Therefore it is important to point out some states' initiatives through their consulates, even demonstrating their concern about emigrant security and integrity.
- h) The liaison programmes analysed, corresponding to countries of origin and destination like Spain, which include local actions with respect to developmental and cooperation approaches, allow good practices to be extracted. These results must be assessed to adapt them to the Ibero-American region.
- i) Codevelopment offers liaison opportunities that must be expanded, given that it is a tool to strengthen shared activities for both the communities of origin and emigrated nationals.
- j) It must be stressed that the programmes analysed also open up a space for civil society participation. These practices must be broadened and systematised beyond where they are now. This is because without taking the main stakeholders' perspective into account, it is impossible to achieve the targeted liaison.
- k) Although little emphasis was placed on liaison programmes for emigrants with high scientific and professional training, the cyclical nature of this type of emigration should be used to establish periodic liaisons with the countries of origin. The experience of Asiatic countries in this regard should be analysed to obtain lessons that could be applied to Ibero-America.
- l) Policies contributing to making use of qualified workers through circular migration routes could be implemented in the Ibero-American region as a whole and within the framework of the agreements on economic integration.

***ROUND TABLE: Design of an Action Programme and Cooperation Methods to Implement the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development***

According to paragraph 21 of the Santiago Statement Action Programme adopted during the 17th Summit, the main purpose of the round table was the interchange of ideas between the main migration stakeholders, such as consultation processes, civil society networks, the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the European Commission, on different methods of cooperation and convergence of activities for the

implementation of the Montevideo Commitment and the design of an action programme for the FIBEMYD.

- a) The reference framework for the FIBYMED Action Programme is given by the principles agreed upon in the Salamanca Statement, the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development and the Santiago de Chile Statement.
- b) The aim of the action programme can be no other than the implementation of the operative commitments adopted by the 22 heads of state and government in the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development.
- c) Therefore, the contents of paragraph 25 of the Commitment have been included in the Action Programme draft, as well as the main conclusions of the first FIBEMYD meeting. In this regard, an ordinance must prevail according to substantive and provisional priorities.
- d) The specific activities to be executed in the framework of the FIBEMYD Action Program must take into consideration good practices that have already been implemented and assessed by governments, RCM and SACM regional consultation processes, the MERCOSUR Specialised Forum on Migration and other stakeholders, to the extent that they match the Montevideo operative commitments and are feasible in the Ibero-American space.
- e) The initiatives of the FIBEMYD Action Programme must strengthen the positive impact of the previously executed actions taken by these key players.
- f) In this context, the execution of the Action Programme -that will receive the name of Cuenca Action Programme (PAC)- must be based on the programmatic convergence and cooperation amongst the different players related to migration tasks in the Ibero-American region, which represents an optimal opportunity to extend dialogue and cooperation regarding migration and development.
- g) The signature of the SEGIB-ECLAC/CELADE-IOM Memorandum of Understanding provides enormous value in terms of inter-institutional cooperation to execute PAC activities.
- h) The FIBEMYD meeting was considered a transcendent milestone by the European Commission, especially in light of the next EU-LAC Summit to be held in Lima in May. Its final statement will contain a special paragraph on migration that will guide bi-regional relations in this matter from the Lima Summit onwards.
- i) The GFMD pro tempore presidency emphasised the convergence of objectives with the FIBEMYD, as well as the importance of its participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> GFMD meeting in Manila, Philippines.
- j) The representatives of organisation networks from civil society expressed their recognition and appreciation of FIBEMYD as a space for dialogue, presentation of proposals and identification of coincidences that favour coordination, convergence and joint work with civil society to ensure better policies and practices in favour of migrants, highlighting full respect for their rights.
- k) The agenda established for dealing with the conclusions of the meeting and the Cuenca Action Programme is the following:

**7 May:** Publication of the Conclusions and the Action Programme draft on the SEGIB Website at [www.segib.org](http://www.segib.org);

**Until 30 May:** Member states will submit their comments/observations on the conclusions and the Action Programme draft;

**Until 30 June:** The relevant comments/observations will be added and the final report of the meeting will be finished;

**4 July:** Presentation of the final report to national coordinators.

- 1) As stated, the Cuenca Action Programme draft that is presented below contains the operative commitments of the Montevideo Commitment grouped into the three main subject areas that were used in the action plans of the RCM and SACM Regional Consultation Processes.



THEMES/CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES (paragraph 25 of the Montevideo Commitment)	ACTIVITIES
<b>MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<p><b>Migration and Economic and Social Integration</b></p>	<p>To include and give priority to migration and development in the Ibero-American agenda. Furthermore, to promote the incorporation of migratory aspects on other international agendas regarding integration processes, as well as those regarding international trade, the environment, human development and international cooperation for development (25.t).</p>	<p>Study on migration and development Study on the social and economic impact of integration on three selected countries Expand identified good practices</p>
<p><b>Remittances</b></p>	<p>To facilitate their transfer, reduce sending costs and hidden costs (25.x)</p>	<p>To broaden good practices, including the 3 to 5x1 codevelopment projects To consider the action recommendations of the FIBEMYD first session Coordinated by IOSS</p>
<p><b>Portability of social forecast</b></p>	<p>To adopt the necessary measures to implement the Ibero-American Convention on Social Security (25.k)</p>	
<p><b>Migration for work purposes</b></p>	<p>To give priority to the different types of temporary migration for work purposes within the framework of agreements and specific projects between countries to strengthen the possibilities of migrant workers and the benefits for the country of destination and the development of the country of origin (25.f)</p>	<p>Bilateral agreements and other types To expand identified good practices</p>

<p><b>Liaison with emigrated nationals, including codevelopment</b></p>	<p>To establish liaison mechanisms with emigrated nationals and create conditions, including bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements, that link the contribution of these human resources to development processes in the countries of origin (25.f). To strengthen consulate service networks (25.f)</p>	<p>To duplicate the good practices, including codevelopment projects, presented at FIBEMYD. To define an Ibero-American programme to create networks that link scientific and technical work.</p> <p>To work on intra-regional liaison.</p>
<p><b>THEMES/CONTENTS</b></p>	<p><b>OBJECTIVES (paragraph 25 of the Montevideo Commitment)</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p>
<p><b><i>HUMAN RIGHTS</i></b></p> <p><b>Information campaigns on human rights, fight against trade of persons, illegal traffic of migrants and risks of illegal migration</b></p> <p><b>Integration of migrants and fight against all kinds of discrimination</b></p> <p><b>International Legislation</b></p> <p><b>Training regarding human rights</b></p>	<p>To raise awareness on rights, risks and vulnerability (25.c and j)</p> <p>To incorporate migration issues in national information and education campaigns to publicise rights and the positive contribution of migrants to their receiving societies (25.c)</p> <p>To promote the ratification of international instruments and to adapt national legislations to these instruments (25.h) and (25.l)</p> <p>To prevent and fight against discriminatory, xenophobic and racist practices and other</p>	<p><b>cross-cutting theme</b></p> <p>To design and diffuse an Ibero-American campaign with good practices developed by governments, the IOM and the Regional Consultation Processes</p> <p>To identify cooperation mechanisms to contribute to developing training campaigns at different levels</p> <p>To link this with migration and development activities. Use good practices, most of which were presented at the FIBEMYD</p> <p>In coordination with Regional Consultation Processes</p> <p>To develop an Ibero-American programme with the participation</p>

	related intolerant attitudes against migrants (25.d)	of relevant players and existing good practices
--	--	---

THEMES/CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES (paragraph 25 of Montevideo Commitment)	ACTIVITIES
<p><b><i>MIGRATION MANAGEMENT</i></b></p> <p><b>Trade of persons and illegal traffic of migrants</b></p> <p><b>Return of migrants</b></p> <p><b>Gender and Migration</b></p>	<p>To strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation on the matter (25.j). To establish a support network for victims of these crimes (25.j). To create information exchange mechanisms among the relevant stakeholders (25.j). To strengthen communication, awareness and training mechanisms (25.j).</p> <p>To make the voluntary return of migrants to their communities of origin possible (25.b)</p> <p>To pay special attention to the special features of female migration, promoting and ensuring full respect of human rights regardless of their migratory condition, as well as the elimination of all kinds of discrimination and violence against</p>	<p>To design and diffuse an Ibero-American campaign with good practices developed by governments, the IOM and Regional Processes of Consultation</p> <p>To strengthen international cooperation to implement voluntary return programmes, copying good practices, especially from the IOM and the RCM</p> <p><b>TRANSVERSE</b></p>

them (25.l). To adopt measures that contribute to improving female migrants' living conditions and equal access to resources and services. To create actions to meet the needs of those women who stay behind as the heads of household (25.m)

THEMES/CONTENTS	OBJECTIVES (paragraph 25 of Montevideo Commitment)	ACTIVITIES
<p><b><i>MIGRATION MANAGEMENT (cont.)</i></b></p> <p><b>Indigenous and African-Descendant Migration</b></p> <p><b>Migration and Youth</b></p> <p><b>Migration of Minors</b></p>	<p>To heed vulnerability conditions and disadvantages that affect these population groups (25.o)</p> <p>According to the conclusions of the round table "Youth Migration" from the "Youth and Development" seminar, held in San Salvador 1-2 April 2008, in preparation of the 18th Summit</p> <p>To ensure the fulfilment of international legislation (25.n)</p>	<p>To replicate good practices of regional processes and civil society</p> <p>To design cooperation programmes that use existing good practices</p>



Transverse themes: Human Rights, Gender and Ethnicity