

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE ECONOMIC

## B. FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL IBERO-AMERICAN MEETINGS

ECLAC, through CELADE, has actively followed the Ibero-American Summits of Heads of State and Government, including those of Salamanca, Spain (2005), Montevideo, Uruguay (2006) and Santiago de Chile, Chile (2007). Those meetings recognized the importance of international migration within the Ibero-

Madrid and attended by Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.<sup>6</sup> The book was also presented at the eighteenth Ibero-American Summit held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 29 to 31 October 2008, at which the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the Cuenca Plan.

C. T

## E. WOMEN AND MIGRATION: THE MANY FACES OF VULNERABILITY

Throughout the region, Latin American women have progressively increased their participation in migration flows, migrating to different places, for different reasons, by themselves, with their families or to reunite with their families abroad. This topic has been extensively analysed by ECLAC through studies conducted by CELADE. These studies have focused not only on the vulnerabilities associated with diverse forms of discrimination against female migrants, including sexual and labour exploitation, but also on the successful integration of migrants in host countries, which potentially contributes to diminishing gender disparities.

In fact, in the receiving countries of Latin America, female migrant workers do find opportunities for integration into the labour force, but these opportunities tend to be restricted to the domestic work sector. This points to the emergence of a transnational labour market composed of networks of women who work as housekeepers, personal caretakers, street vendors, waitresses and bartenders and perform other activities. The feminization of the labour market and its transnational character are phenomena that have been simultaneously increasing in the region. The labour market, in its demand for cheap and flexible labour, makes use of labour identities anchored in gender relations, which constitutes an object of concern for the design of policy instruments.

Undocumented female migrants are potentially more vulnerable than female migrants with documents because of their great exposure to social risks, such as poverty, unemployment and subordination in their homes. They have less individual and institutional support for counteracting these risks and are victims of a stigma that leads to the perception that, due to the lack of opportunities in their countries of origin, they are willing to be smuggled or trafficked for any activity. The conflation of gender, ethnicity, nationality and lack of documents can lead to the most extreme human rights violations.

## F. T

STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF  
THE RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES  
(OCTOBER 2008)

<b>Country</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>
Albania		2007	Jamaica		2008
Algeria		2005	Kyrgyzstan		2003
Argentina		2007	Lesotho		2005
Azerbaijan		1999	Liberia	2004	
Bangladesh	1998		Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		2004
Belize		2001	Mali		2003
Benin	2005		Mauritania		2007
Bolivia		2000	Mexico		1999
Bosnia-Herzegovina		1996	Montenegro	2006	
Burkina Faso		2003	Morocco		1993

## REFERENCES

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United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2006). *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision*. POP/DB/MIG/Rev.2005.

SPEECH GIVEN BY MS. ALICIA BARCENA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECLAC,  
AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK  
I FORO IBEROAMERICANO SOBRE MIGRACION Y DESARROLLO:  
UNIDOS POR LAS MIGRACIONES

[The First Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development: united by migration]

Madrid, 10 October 2008

Enrique Iglesias, Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Secretariat;  
William Lacy Swing, Director General of International Organization for Migration;  
Trinidad Jiménez, Secretary of State for Ibero-America;

On behalf of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, I would like you to know what a tremendous source of satisfaction it is for us to present this book here today along with you. This study synthesizes the valuable efforts and contributions made by the first Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development, held in Cuenca, Ecuador, on 10 and 11 April last year.

Given the Commission's ongoing commitment to researching and addressing the issues involved in international migration, human rights and development in Latin America and the Caribbean, participating in the Ibero-American Forum has been a top priority for us. This commitment also forms part of the heritage of critical and innovative work on social and economic development that has shaped the history of ECLAC.

We know today that migration, like many other social phenomena, has several different faces. As ECLAC has consistently pointed out in different discussion forums, while it is true that migration brings with it opportunities for development for the nations involved, it also entails risks for migrants themselves and losses of human and social capital for the countries of origin. The great potential embodied in this multifaceted phenomenon poses major challenges for the countries of Ibero-America. It also commits us to addressing the subject through dialogue and cooperation, however, and action in this area will have to look beyond the crisis currently affecting the world economy and the international financial system.

Allow me to share some thoughts with you from our regional viewpoint. In the 1990s, as the result of a careful analysis of the situation, ECLAC drew attention to a historic paradox that had emerged and which became particularly apparent in the early 2000s: at a time when the world is more interconnected than ever and when financial and trade flows are being liberalized, formidable barriers to the free movement of persons persist. These are especially notable in our region. This observation has led us to highlight that migration is in fact being formally excluded from the current globalization process, an idea which we continue to develop today.

We have stressed, for example, that little value has been attributed to migration as a force for strengthening economic and labour, social and political, cultural and value-based ties around the world and that multiple factors, starting with development asymmetries and the demand for migrant workers, are driving this phenomenon. The analytical work of ECLAC has stimulated debate about one aspect of migration in particular: the juxtaposition of the motivation to migrate





As the Governments stated in the Commitment, priority now needs to be awarded to addressing the interplay between migration and development through a global approach that fosters closer bilateral and multilateral cooperation in a number of areas, most notably in: remittances; the orderly management of migratory flows; the promotion and protection of human rights; the prevention of, and fight against, the smuggling and trafficking of migrants; undocumented migration; the promotion of a multilateral dialogue; and the participation of civil society.

Hence the importance of the establishment of the Forum, which is the most appropriate and adequate instance for exchanging experiences of joint action among the countries of Ibero-America and for building ever stronger modalities for cooperation that will make it possible to continue the implementation and follow-up of the mandates of the Salamanca Declaration, the Montevideo Commitment and the Programme of Action of the Santiago Declaration.