

THE REGULARIZATION OF MIGRANTS: A TOOL FOR INCREASED INTEGRATION AND ACCESS TO RIGHTS

SIDE EVENT AT THE REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

April 27, 2021

**8:00 a.m. Bogota time (GMT -5)
9:00 a.m. Santiago de Chile time (GMT -4)
15:00 p.m. Geneva time (CEST)**

One of the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is to enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration. The Compact recognizes that regularization of migration is one of the main tools for integrating migrants, promoting their human rights and generating peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Therefore, each State, with the support of the international community, are appealed to develop policies of social integration and protection of human rights of migrants, including through effective, flexible and inclusive migration regularization policies.

Regularizing migrants represents a first step in initiating a virtuous cycle for migrants in their destination countries. For its effectiveness, it should include host communities to facilitate integration and fight against discrimination as well as xenophobia.

Migrants in an irregular status are, among other consequences, exposed to serious violations of their fundamental rights and often exploited. Therefore, it is in the interest of States to adopt appropriate regulatory measures to prevent and eliminate the trafficking and smuggling of migrants, while ensuring their human rights.

Moreover, lacking regular status creates extreme vulnerability and affects migrants' ability to access formal economy and labour market, basic services, protection and assistance from the host State. In many cases, restrictive regularization processes have proven to be effective in preventing irregular migration, but only make it more difficult for migrants to access a dignified life.

Faced with a socioeconomic situation that has worsened in all Latin American and Caribbean countries due to the severe impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is even more urgent to discuss the links between regularization, access to services, host communities and development.

To address this issue, experts from international organizations and States will participate in the side event and will present best practices from countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region. A particular focus will be given to the comprehensive and solidarity-based regulatory measures adopted in response to recent major migratory movements.

The meeting will also highlight the important role of the international community in support to the host countries and host communities in harnessing the link between development, migration and human rights; a triad promoted by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Objective of the online event

This event aims to highlight the importance of regularization measures adopted in the region with a view to guaranteeing the human rights of migrants, promoting their social integration, combating xenophobia and discrimination, and complying with the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Agenda

Opening remarks

Mrs. Adriana Mejía Hernández, Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs of Colombia

Moderator: Ambassador Alicia Arango Olmos, Representative of Colombia to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva.

The regional experience in the field of regularization

Mr. Diego Beltrand, Special Envoy of the Director General of IOM for refugee and migrant flows from Venezuela.

Examples of solidarity-based regularization pathways with inclusion and human rights protection purposes

The Colombian Experience

Mr. Juan Francisco Espinosa, Director of Migration Colombia

Mr. Lucas Gómez, Presidential Advisor on the Management of Borders

The Costa Rican Experience

Mr. Daguer Hernández, Deputy Director of the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigner's Affairs

The stakeholder Experience

Mrs. Carmen Aida Farías, President of the Foundation "Manitas Amarillas"

Questions and Answers

Closing remarks

Ambassador Alicia Arango Olmos, Representative of Colombia to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

Connection details

To join as PARTICIPANT:

<https://live.kudoway.eu/k8/240218654202/join>

Meeting ID: 240218654202

Please let us know, before the 26th April, if you are willing to take the floor (diana.mejia@cancilleria.gov.co).

To join as VIEWER:

<https://live.kudoway.eu/k8/770213835371/join>



Meeting ID: 770213835371

The event will be in Spanish and simultaneous translation will be available in English. The meeting will be recorded.

We invite participants to submit questions through the platform chat or by sending an email to diana.mejia@cancilleria.gov.co.