

Statement

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Your excellency (**representative of Peru to be confirmed on DG arrival**)

Distinguished delegates from the South American countries,

Representatives of International Organizations, guest countries and other forums,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to attend the XIV South American Conference on Migration. This is the Fifth SACM I've attended since my mandate at IOM began in 2008. It's a special honour to share this inaugural ceremony with the authorities of the government of Peru, in its capacity as Presidency Pro Tempore of the Conference.

It is the second time that I am visiting Lima in two years, and I am always impressed by the hospitality and generosity of the government and the people of Peru. The SACM was created 15 years ago in Peru, and I must say that is remarkable the positive evolution and consolidation of this Conference since that time.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the work of the Government of Colombia as the most previous Presidency Pro Tempore and my congratulations on the actions carried out during its mandate.

As the lead global migration agency present in 470 sites in some 150 countries and with 156 member states – IOM's growth reflects the exponential increase in interest in migration on the part of almost all governments. Migration is increasingly relevant to almost all states in all regions of the world, particularly in this region.

On this occasion, I would like to raise three points: -- areas in which the SACM is making significant contributions:

- 1) Dialogue;
- 2) Development; and
- 3) Dignity.

I. Dialogue.

You may remember that the call to strengthen the dialogue on migration between the governments at the regional level was made twenty years ago -- in the Plan of Action of the Cairo Conference on Population in 1994. Since then, the Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) on migration have been stimulating dialogue and cooperation among different states -- and in doing so, have improved the atmosphere and challenges globalization poses to our societies.

- The SACM and fifteen other Regional Consultations provide a reliable space for the exchange of information, ideas, experiences and knowledge -- above all, the SACM promotes greater trust among officials from different countries -- The RCPs are also valuable in offering guidance to countries on policy making, program design, practical analysis and strengthening of institutional capacities.
- RCPs address central issues on migration, such as the promotion and protection of human rights of migrants, particularly those most vulnerable; the design and enactment of appropriate measures and mechanisms in urgent response to migrants facing unfairness and suffering at any stage of the migration process, and the contribution of migrants to the development of societies of origin and destination, among other issues.

As was stated at the 4th Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) that took place here in Lima in May 2013, the RCP's agendas have evolved to adapt to emerging migration issues, and given the growing demand for effective responses, to address better cooperation and coordination across regions. Overall the agenda of many RCP's have over time evolved from an initial focus on security issues towards more holistic approaches to migration. In this regard, the particularity of the SACM is that the human rights of migrants are in the center of its Declarations and policies.

At present, despite the important progress RCPs have made, there is always a need for closer cooperation and coordination between origin, transit and host countries. In this regard, the inter-regional coordination among RCPs from different regions is critical to understand common issues and priorities. For

example, the exchanges between the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) and the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) in the Americas are very positive.

The SACM has become a global model for its accomplishments -- especially in establishing a set of principles and guidelines focused on the Human Rights of Migrants: for example, the right to migrate; -- the historically positive contribution of migrants to societies of destination and origin; -- the rejection of any discrimination and xenophobia against migrants and against detention and criminalization of migration. All of these fundamental rights have been consistently and explicitly expressed in all the Declarations of the SACM -- from the first meeting that I attended in Montevideo in 2008 and successively in the following conferences in Quito (2009), Cochabamba (2010), Brasilia (2011), Santiago de Chile (2012) and Cartagena (2013).

Those principles and guidelines are now firmly embedded in, and a key, unique compound of -- the South American approach to migration. IOM is proud to be associated with the South America; we are glad to contribute with funding from the IOM Development Fund (IDF) to implement some of the Plan's activities, particularly those related to the training of government officers on human rights of migrants.

One of the main pillars of the South American migration policy is the regularization of migrants -- a stance that has greatly strengthened the protection of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status. (The regularization of migrants was the topic selected by the Colombian Chair for the XIII SACM meeting to reinforce this key pillar of migration policy in the region.)

Another remarkable contribution of the SACM to the South America region and to the international discussions on migration has been your approach to regional integration. SACM's conceptual approach and its framework of principles and guidelines have positively influenced and contributed to the numerous advances in the internal migration policies of its Member States, as well as to regional integration process.

In this regard, I would also like to highlight three major steps you have taken in consolidating a modern, humane approach to migration in South America.

- First, the Agreement on Free Residence of Mercosur in 2002;
- Second, the normative framework on labor migration of the Community of Andean Nations (CAN); and
- Third, SACM's decision to establish a roadmap leading to "South American Citizenship" in the framework of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). I am sure that the address of Mr. Lelio Marmora -- former Regional Director of IOM -- will underline SACM's positive contribution to the development of national and regional policies on migration.

II. Development

Second, the SACM has also helped strengthen the link between migration and development last October, the second High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development took place at the United Nations General Assembly. The debates and final Declaration revealed a rather remarkable evolution of the international debate on migration and development since the first UNGA High

Level Dialogue in 2006. Even more noteworthy was the coherence of the Secretary-Generals eight points; Civil Societies' Six Point Plan of Action; and the recommendations of IOM and the Global Migration Group. Although drafted independently of one another, the documents were virtually identical in substance.

The outcomes of the HLD reflected - (a) a positive understanding of the relations between human, economic and social development; - (b) the need to give priority to the protection of the human rights of all migrants; and - (c) the importance of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach at all levels - CSOs, private sector and the Diasporas. In this regard I would like to congratulate the Peruvian Chair and SACM for the decision to invite a delegation from Civil Society to speak in a specific segment of this week's Conference.

Cooperation to achieve well-being and opportunities for the migrants has become a key aspect of international migration dynamics. In this regard, IOM is proud to be the Global Lead Agency on Migration; we are aware, however, that the multi-faceted and complex dimensions of migration require partners and cooperation at all levels. In this sense, IOM is glad to be part of -- and one of the co-founders of -- the Global Migration Group (GMG) -- sixteen agencies seeking to coordinate international efforts on migration and to achieve a coherent response to migration challenges.

The next step for the international governance of migration is the conclusion and approval of the UN Development Agenda Post-2015. In this process, I appeal to urge governments to ensure that migration is reflected in the new post-2015 UN Development Agenda. A lot is at stake, and South American

countries have a lot to contribute highlighting the need to promote development with greater equity and migration with greater humanity.

In sum, the main challenges ahead, as I see them, are

- **first**, to create opportunities for safe, orderly migration, promoting regular migration, and protecting migrants' human rights;
- **second**, to promote a positive narrative about migrants in host and home societies and in economies through job creation, innovations and new ideas;
- **third**, reducing the transfer costs of remittances;
- **fourth**, combatting human trafficking and smuggling.

III. Dignity

My third and final point is the importance of focusing our migrant policies on the well-being of migrants and the social inclusion of migrants in host societies - policies that respect the dignity of migrants or human beings. I would like to commend the choice of social inclusion as the main theme of the XIV SACM. South American governments have made important strides in recent years to ensure the social inclusion of its citizens and migrants.

Welfare includes a number of dimensions, such as health, education, housing, income, social relationships, work, safety and environment.

As we know, migrants, more often than not, enter the labor market and the local community at a lower level than their capacity or qualifications. This then results in low levels of welfare. In practice, this often means that migrants have

limited access to health and education and other public services and are often inserted in precarious jobs with low wages making it difficult to integrate fully into these societies. South America has made much progress in ensuring equal conditions between migrants and nationals, as regards access to health, education and employment.

Of course, many challenges remain, particularly in regard to discrimination, xenophobia, and harmful stereotypes that lead the public to perceive migration as a threat, associating migrants with crime, job competition, and disease. All of this creates social conflicts. It is critical, therefore, to ensure a positive public perception of migrants and migration.

Although much remains to be done in this area, I believe that the SACM Member States are well aware of these challenges and have developed a clear agenda to promote the social inclusion of the migrants.

One key aspect of the social inclusion of the migrants in the host societies is to promote the inclusion of migration in the development plans of cities. Nowadays the big megacities – and South America has many of them -- host numerous international and internal migrants that share difficult conditions with locals in poor neighborhoods without proper services and often in locations affected by natural disasters. Concerned about this trend, IOM supports the inclusion of migrants in urban planning. In this sense next year's, World Migration Report will be dedicated to "Migrants and Cities".

One of the great challenges of our time is to learn to manage inexorably increasing social, cultural, ethnic and religious diversity. If we succeed in this, we all benefit. Should we fail, the result could be catastrophic.

Finally, rest assured that IOM is fully committed to continue supporting Governments and Migrants in achieving well-being for the migrants, ensuring access to the full range of rights and services, in conditions of dignity for the migrants and their families. In so doing, the national interest is well-served.