



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
Directorate of Consular Policy  
Deputy Directorate of International Migration

## **INTERVENTION**

**AMBASSADOR ALEJANDRO MARISIO CUGAT, DIRECTOR  
GENERAL FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION  
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE XV SACM**

**09/07/2015**

**Representatives of the member states of the South American  
Conference on Migration**

**Authorities of the International Organization for Migration**

**Representatives of Ministries and other government agencies of  
the country**

**Colleagues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

I would like to extend you the warmest of welcomes to the opening ceremony of the **XV South American Conference on Migration**, whose topic is “With Justice and Equality towards Migration Management”.

Let me highlight and express my appreciation for the participation of the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mr. William Swing, in this XV South American Conference on Migration, and recognize the invaluable contribution of IOM to the study and improvement of migration governance and its significant work supporting the Conference in its role as Technical Secretariat.

Once again I would like to thank Paraguay for the outstanding welcome and kind hospitality offered to us during the X Intersessional Meeting of



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the South American Conference on Migration presided over by the Government of Peru, the Presidency Pro Tempore of the SACM at that time, where the commitments assumed under the Lima Declaration of the last SACM held in Peru in last October were reviewed.

Let me also highlight the work done at the XIV South American Conference on Migration by the then Presidency Pro Tempore of Peru, when the social inclusion of migrants was defined as a central theme for working at the regional level, apart from furthering other highly relevant themes, like the relationship between the South American Conference on Migration and the Union of South American Nations and other Regional Consultative Processes, the participation of Civil Society Organizations in the South American Conference on Migration, and the follow-up on the Regional Plan for the Human Development of International Migration, among other themes of interest.

Apart from furthering these themes, at the XV South American Conference on Migration, our country seeks to mainstream themes like **Migrants' Access to Justice**, with an emphasis on recognizing that, within the sphere of justice, migrants are in an especially vulnerable condition given that they are in a social and legal environment which is different from theirs, urging States to recognize access to justice for migrants, notwithstanding their migration status; the relationship between **Migration and City**, considering the role of local governments in migration management; **Migration Governance** in South America; and the dynamics between **Migration, Environment and Climate Change**.

In our capacity as **Presidency Pro Tempore of the South American Conference on Migration**, we believe that each of these topics



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involves political, economic, social and cultural realities which are characteristic of our region. Although each theme can be visualized from a global perspective, the differences and peculiarities are what encourage us to address these themes from a regional, South American perspective, with a focus on regional integration and the human rights of migrants, members of their families and vulnerable groups.

Reaffirming our commitment to the participation of all the actors that are part of this regional dialogue process, we have held a number of Thematic Meetings in preparation for the subjects that will be addressed as part of the agenda of the XV Conference.

The first one took place on July 30 of this year and addressed Migrants' Access to Justice. A week later, on August 11, the **dynamic relationship between Migration and City** was discussed. The last meeting was held on August 28, and discussions revolved around building **Migration Governance in South America**, with the aim to advance towards greater commitments in the region based on the updating of the **Declaration of Principles and Guidelines of Cochabamba** (2010) and the **South American Plan for the Human Development of International Migration** (PSDH, by its Spanish acronym, 2010).

In addition to once again extending my appreciation for your attendance and commitment to this XV South American Conference on migration, let me highlight the contributions made by this process to the



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formulation of different policies and programmes aimed at turning migration into an opportunity for the development of our countries and migrants themselves.

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