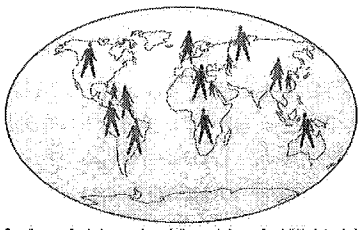

Conferencia Internacional Especial, a nivel Ministerial,
de Países en Desarrollo con Flujos Sustanciales
Internacionales de Migrantes
Lima - Perú, 15 y 16 de Mayo de 2006

Special International Conference, at Ministerial Level, of Developing Countries with Substantial International Migrant Flows

"LIMA DECLARATION"

The Ministers and the high level representatives of States attending the "Special International Conference, at Ministerial Level, of Developing Countries with Substantial International Migrant Flows" (*) held in Lima on 15 – 16 May 2006, following the suggestion made by the General Assembly of the United Nations to formulate initiatives that contribute to the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

RECALLING

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment;

The relevant provisions on international migration contained, inter alia, in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination Against Women; the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of racial Discrimination;

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, which entered into force in July 2003;

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes and the supplementing protocols thereto, namely, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in persons especially Women and Children;

CONSCIOUS

That there is a need to look at migration issues from a development perspective, since migrants are above all human beings with rights and active agents of development. Consequently, challenges concerning development and international migration needs a comprehensive dialogue in the international community,

That it is in the common interest of the international community to ensure that international migration takes place in an orderly, safe and non discriminatory manner. To achieve this the international community needs concerted, comprehensive and coherent responses that maximize the positive effects of international migration and minimize the negative effects. As a part of a comprehensive solution to addressing the multidimensional effects of international migration and managing the increasing flows of migrants worldwide, there is a need for global dialogue and partnerships,

That there is a need to address the issue of international migration and development taking into account the multidimensional aspects, factors and consequences of the migration phenomenon as well as taking into account comprehensive and analytical studies examining the contributions that international migration and migrants make to the development of both sending and receiving States,

That migrants contribute through their hard work to development and enrich societies, economically, politically and culturally in both countries of origin and countries of destination,

That remittance flows constitute one of the important aspects of international migration,

That, whereas globalisation has facilitated the international flow of capital, merchandises and information, the movement of persons across borders is still being restricted,

That all States are responsible for protecting the human rights of migrants and their families, regardless of their migration status, in accordance with national legislation, international law and human rights instruments,

That policies and initiatives on migration should promote holistic and long term approaches that take into account the causes and consequences of the phenomenon as well as the full respect of the human rights of migrants,

That it is necessary to penalize and to combat the manifestations of violence, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance

and inhuman and degrading treatment against migrants and their families and to promote respect for religious and cultural diversity,

That policies that criminalize persons based on their migratory status are a matter of serious international concern,

That it is important to promote conditions that favor the successful economic and social integration and inclusion of migrants and migrant communities into countries of destination, taking into account the cultural diversity of the migrant communities,

That migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the international community,

That States should prevent and combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, in conformity with national legislation and relevant international instruments,

That the increasing feminization of international migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

That the Heads of State and Government committed at the United Nations Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism, discrimination and xenophobia and to promote greater harmony, tolerance and respect in all societies,

That the Monterrey Consensus contains important commitment and recommendations relevant to international migration and development, particularly in the field of facilitating transfers of remittances,

That it is imperative to continue strengthening international cooperation at all levels in order to maximize the benefits of migration and to mitigate its negative impacts,

DECLARE

1.- That international migration is a complex phenomenon linked with other policy issues, such as trade, economic development, human rights. It therefore should be dealt with in a comprehensive, balanced, principled and multidimensional manner,

2.- That to achieve the goal of orderly, safe and regular migration, in an increasingly globalized world, it is necessary to give priority to dialogue,

cooperation and synergies at all levels taking into account the different interests and realities of migration,

3.- That the issue of international migration generates advantages and challenges that must be understood, analyzed and addressed in a responsible and balanced manner, by all parties involved including national governments, with the support of international organizations, migrants and civil society,

4.- That in addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with international migration, best practices should be taken into account,

5.- That the effects of international migration should continue to be evaluated by States, through sustained dialogue, interaction and consultation, in order to maximize its benefits and minimize the negative consequences for States of origin, transit and destination and for migrants. In this regard, members of the international community should collaborate with these efforts,

6.- That to this end, it is necessary to recognize the contributions of the migration phenomenon and consider a comprehensive and balanced approach to the international migration, on the basis of mutual concern, mutual benefit and mutual commitment. This should aim at reaching a political consensus in order to develop and promote cooperative arrangements for orderly migration,

7.- That States should effectively protect and promote the human rights of all migrants in all instances,

8.- That States share a responsibility to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, smuggling of migrants, in strict observance of human rights and human dignity, specially considering the vulnerability of victims, with due regard to relevant international instruments and regional cooperation frameworks. They should ensure that the fight against these crimes is enforced in their national legislation,

9.- That the international community should promote dialogue and cooperation aimed at mitigating irregular migration and its collateral risks.

10.- The need to adopt all necessary measures to promote respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families and to eliminate acts of racism, discrimination against migrants and xenophobia and to promote greater solidarity, harmony and tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity,

11.- The need for greater coherence and coordination among international organizations dealing with migration issues,

12.- Their concern about the risks that migrant women and girls, including women migrant workers, are exposed to, such as gender based discrimination, violence, including sexual violence, smuggling, trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation and economic exploitation and other forms of abuse, and the need to protect them from these risks,

AGREE

1.- To cooperate in the promotion of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of their immigration status, especially those of women and children, in particular to prevent illegal or violent acts, acts of racial discrimination, criminalisation of migratory status, crimes perpetrated with racist motivation and all forms of trafficking in persons.

2.- To promote policies in order to enhance the economic, cultural and social contribution provided by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin and destination.

3.- To urge countries of destination to develop strategies for the inclusion of migrants into society, through an intercultural approach.

4.- To reaffirm the need for countries of origin and destination to promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances.

5.- To strengthen cooperative strategies on international migration among states, international organizations and civil society to ensure that migration contributes to the development of both countries of origin and destination.

6.- To invite all states concerned to consider becoming party to all relevant international conventions and protocols related to international migration, in particular, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all migrant workers and members of their families.

7.- To hold the Second Special International Conference, at Ministerial Level, of Developing Countries with Substantial International Migrant Flows in Morocco and highly appreciates the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its kind offer to host the next meeting in 2007.

8.- To convey the Lima Declaration to the President of the General Assembly to be considered at the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, in the framework light of the 61st period of sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, as a contribution to their deliberations.

9.- That the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development should adopt a global, principled, balanced and comprehensive approach as a key factor in all effective for any migratory policy, and a fundamental basis for multilateral cooperation in this field.

10.- That the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held in New York in September 2006 should lead to continued dialogue and follow-up measures on migration and development in a comprehensive, balanced, principled and multidimensional manner.

11.- To express appreciation to the Government of Peru for convening the First Special International Conference at the Ministerial Level of Developing Countries with Substantial International Flows, for its masterful organization, as well as for the warm hospitality offered to the participating delegations.

Lima, Peru, May 16 2006

States attending the "Special International Conference, at Ministerial Level, of Developing Countries with Substantial International Migrant Flows" (Lima Peru May 16 2006)

1. Algeria
2. Bolivia
3. Brasil
4. Colombia
5. China
6. Dominican Republic
7. Ecuador
8. Egypt
9. El Salvador
10. Philipines
11. Guatemala
12. India
13. Indonesia
14. Jamaica
15. Morocco
16. México
17. Nigeria
18. Pakistan
19. Paraguay
20. Peru
21. Sri Lanka
22. Souh Africa
23. Thailand
24. Vietnam