

DECLARATION FROM THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND PEACE (IN NEW YORK CITY)

Human Security, Human Development and International Governance of Migration:

A Statement by Participating Governments and Civil Society Organizations at the Local, National and International Levels

The participants in the Fourth International Forum on Migration and Peace, held in New York City on June 20 and 21, 2013; its convenor, the Scalabrini International Migration Network; its co-organizer, the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations; its consultant, the Mayor's Office on Immigration Affairs of New York; its sponsors, the Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS), the New York Law School, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the Humanity-Without-Borders Foundation, Western Union, the Marin Media Group, the Scalabrini Communication Center; the Missionaries of Saint Charles, Scalabrinians; Government institutions, foundations and civil society organizations that collaborated in organizing the Forum; as well as other participating institutions and individuals that participated in this event;

In continuation of the process that began in 2009 in Antigua, Guatemala, where we considered the theme, *Borders, Walls or Bridges?*, continuing in 2010 in Bogotá, Colombia, where we discussed, *New Perspectives on Citizenship and Democracy* and in 2011 in Mexico City, where we took up *Safe International Migration*;

In recognition of the potential of migration to contribute to human security and human development, and to promote the common good and peaceful coexistence of all people;

Considering that:

1. The inherent dignity and rights of every human being – regardless of their immigration status – should be promoted and respected by all governments, civil society organizations and international organizations;
2. Human insecurity and lack of development, along with social instability, inequality, economic disparities, natural disasters, armed conflicts, and institutional and political weaknesses, are the main causes of forced international migration;
3. Notwithstanding, the significant contribution of migrants to the development of sending and receiving countries, negative and misguided perceptions of migration are being used to justify and implement restrictive policies and legal barriers to international migration;
4. Despite comprehensive legal frameworks and extensive institutional responses, most migrants are at risk of abuse, exploitation, violence and discrimination;
5. The different initiatives promoted by the international community to address relevant aspects of international migration and development, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), regional processes and other cooperation initiatives, reflect the progressive acknowledgement of the limits of a strictly national approach to migration governance and the importance of international cooperation between governments and of collaboration with civil

society representatives in order to foster coherent, comprehensive and rights-based governance of migration at national, bilateral and international levels;

6. Migrants are actively involved in generating conditions for human and sustainable development and are key actors in promoting international peaceful coexistence, by becoming bridges of communication and intercultural exchange, as well as contributors to the economic, political, social and cultural development of both host and origin communities;

We commit ourselves to:

7. Promoting a shift in the perception of international migration from a threat to an opportunity;
8. Developing a coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration which honors human security and development and which affords migration a prominent role in the United Nations post-2015 development agenda;
9. Directing our joint efforts to tackle the root causes of forced migration, including eradication of poverty, creation of decent jobs, and promotion of human security and human development;
10. Promoting concrete actions – by a joint effort and with a sense of shared responsibility among political and social actors – to help eradicate all forms of violence that cause migration and violence against migrants, as well as all forms of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and abuse in societies of migrant origin, transit, and destination;
11. Contributing with governments, international organizations and civil society organizations to create synergies between migration policies and development processes, in order to maximize the development benefits of international migration both in the sending and receiving countries;
12. Promoting the respect of human, political, economic, social and cultural rights of migrants and their families, regardless of their migration status;
13. Urging governments at local, national and international levels to commit themselves to defining and implementing public policies and programs on migration that will protect the dignity and rights of migrants and their families and to ensure the safety of migrants;
14. Highlighting the opportunity presented by the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) to give political guidance to the United Nations System in addressing international migration through a comprehensive, coherent and balanced approach with a person-centered focus;
15. Ensuring a substantive and meaningful result from the HLD that demonstrates the commitment of the UN Member States to integrate the issue of international migration into the post-2015 development agenda.