



**ECLAC**



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**Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting of international migration experts on the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration**

**30 and 31 August 2017, Raúl Prebisch conference room**

**ECLAC, Santiago**

**Background**

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted under [A/RES/71/1](#) of 19 September 2016 set in motion negotiations for the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly in 2018. This global compact will be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and informed by the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of 2013.

The modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact establish a preparatory process divided into three phases: consultation, stocktaking and intergovernmental negotiations. The consultation phase includes regional and national consultations, with the broad participation of civil society organizations, academic institutions and representatives of migrants, according to the arrangements of each region and country.

This regional consultation involving renowned experts from the region's countries has been organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting of experts will be held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, on 30 and 31 August 2017. The aim of this meeting is to generate inputs that the governments will use in negotiations on the global compact. Hence, participants are expected to offer concrete recommendations and examples of good practices to member States for discussion and consideration.

**Latin American and Caribbean regional preparatory meeting of international migration experts on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration**

The meeting will be held in parallel with the preparatory process and multi-stakeholder hearings relating to the global compact. The many topics to be discussed from a regional perspective include migrants' human rights, the response to the drivers of migration, international cooperation and governance, irregular migration and human trafficking, migrants' contributions to sustainable development and decent work.

International migration is a priority issue on national agendas throughout the region and should be addressed with a vision shared by States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, migrant organizations and diaspora communities.

ECLAC, along with the IOM, will be responsible for ensuring that member States' contributions are taken into consideration by preparing a summary of the meeting that includes the outcomes of three studies on migration in each subregion of Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **Description and organization of the meeting**

#### **1. Place and date**

The Latin American and Caribbean regional preparatory meeting of international migration experts on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration will be held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, on 30 and 31 August 2017.

#### **2. Objectives**

The aim of the meeting will be to generate inputs that the governments will use in negotiations on the global compact. This will involve discussions on the region's priorities and interests by renowned experts from the region's countries and institutions.

#### **3. Themes**

The event will be structured around six thematic sessions on the six general themes established in [A/RES/71/280](#) of 6 April 2017. After the opening session and prior to the thematic sessions, there will be a discussion on the outcomes of three studies on migration in South America, the Caribbean, and Central America and Mexico.

The sessions will be based on the following six themes:

- i. Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance.
- ii. Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution.

- iii. International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration.
- iv. Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits.
- v. Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims.
- vi. Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures.

#### **4. Organization of work**

The meeting will be opened by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as well as Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference to adopt a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Next, there will be a brief presentation of the global compact preparatory process by Juan José Gómez Camacho, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, and Co-facilitator of intergovernmental consultations and negotiations on the global compact. This will be followed by a video message from Felipe González, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants.

Later, there will be a presentation on international migration in the three subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean, followed by comments and discussion, the six thematic sessions with six presenters, a final session for the discussion of conclusions and the closing of the meeting by the organizers. This will be a technical meeting intended as a highly participatory forum with ample discussion, in which experts can share their views and experience during the thematic sessions and the final session on conclusions. Representatives of United Nations agencies and other invited guests are also expected to participate.

The experts and invited guests will be able to participate in discussions which will contribute to the meeting report that will highlight the main themes, concerns, specificities, questions, challenges, priorities and policy proposals.

The meeting report, along with the executive reports of the three studies on migration in the region, will be presented in a consolidated volume that will include the main messages of the meeting's participants to Latin American and Caribbean governments relating to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.