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Launch of the Demographic Observatory 2026

International Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean

Tuesday, 24 November, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Santiago, Chile) (virtual meeting)

The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of the ECLAC invites you to the launch of the Demographic Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean 2026. The publication examines international migration in the region, one of the three fundamental components of population change and a central feature of contemporary society. In recent years, migration has increased in intensity and complexity and has gained growing importance because of its effects on the size and structure of populations and its links with economic and social development, labour markets and inclusion.

The region has maintained a negative international migration balance since the mid-twentieth century, meaning that departures to destinations outside the region continue to exceed arrivals. Although the United States remains the main destination for emigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean, migration between countries within the region has also become increasingly important in recent decades. In 2024, around 48 million people born in the region were living outside their country of birth: 57% in North America, nearly 29% in another country in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 12.7% in Europe. Venezuelan emigration has been a major factor in the growth of intraregional migration.

The availability of timely, reliable and comprehensive data on international migration remains a challenge for the region. The document therefore examines the main data sources and the challenges involved in improving their availability, quality, coverage and comparability. It also analyses the demographic impact of international migration using a zero-net-migration scenario from 1990 onward. Finally, the document examines the factors associated with migration, regulatory frameworks and the contributions of migrants to societies of origin and destination. Social and labour inclusion, migration regularization and the elimination of discrimination are essential to maximizing these contributions. In this context, it is essential to strengthen data systems and promote a new public narrative on migration based on evidence, human rights and inclusion.

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Agenda

Moderator: Simone Cecchini, Director, CELADE-Population Division, ECLAC

11:00-11:10 a.m. Opening remarks

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary, ECLAC

Paula Narváez, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Olivier Najar, Senior Operations Economist, Latin America Department, French Development Agency (AFD)

11:10-11:40 a.m. Presentation of the Demographic Observatory 2026

Helena Cruz Castanheira, Population Affairs Officer, CELADE-Population Division, ECLAC

Fabiana Del Popolo, Chief, Demography and Population Information Area, CELADE-Population Division, ECLAC

11:40 a.m.-12:20 p.m. Expert comments

Felipe Muñoz Gómez, Chief, Migration Unit, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Jorge Muiño, Director General for Consular Affairs and Liaison, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay; Chair of the National Migration Board

Marcela Cerrutti, Researcher, Center for Population Studies (CENEP), Argentina

12:20-12:50 p.m. Q&A

12:50-1:00 p.m. Closing remarks

Juan Francisco Espinosa, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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Information for connecting online:

WEBEX(C-03) (EVENT)

Event information

Topic: Launch of the Demographic Observatory 2026: International Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean
Date: 24 November 2026 - 11:00 a.m. Santiago time

Meeting Number: 2318 070 0430

Meeting Password: n4BwM34pWiU

Join from a PC:
https://eclac.webex.com/weblink/register/rc68ee28a88063cf6a082fbafa0301d8d

Special live-streaming site: https://live.cepal.org/migracion

Event website: https://www.cepal.org/es/eventos/lanzamiento-observatorio-demografico-2026-migracion-internacional-america-latina-caribe

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