

ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

*Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
United Nations*

By virtue of the mandate received from the countries of the region, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)—Population Division of ECLAC provides cooperation to help ensure that international migration is properly considered in national development efforts. This cooperation includes: (a) support for the compilation and processing of relevant information; (b) analysis of migration patterns and trends; (c) organization of and participation in intergovernmental and expert meetings at the regional and subregional levels; and (d) technical assistance for Governments and international organizations, academic institutions and civil society in training and research on migration. The work of CELADE in this sphere is geared towards providing timely responses to the countries' requirements by updating and reviewing the data on the regional migratory situation within a development framework. Activities are conducted in close association with national bodies and international agencies, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

In September 2003 CELADE concluded a research project on changes in the regional migratory map, using information from the 2000 census round (*Migration map for Latin America and the Caribbean, women and gender*, see press releases). After analysing a number of stylised facts relating to recent migratory trends - such as perceptions of the “escape valve” effect and concerns about the role of remittances - the study goes on to describe three traditional regional migratory patterns (immigration from overseas and the cessation of this process, intraregional migration and its moderate intensity, and emigration to the United States) together with a fourth, new type of extraregional migration (with Spain and Japan being the most common destinations). It also refers to migrant returns to the region, which occur with significant frequency. It then explores specifically gender-related traits of international migration, with a particular focus on the quantitative feminization of the phenomenon and the shortcomings and potentials of the information sources used, which raise certain questions about the “invisibility” of migrant women. In addition, the study reviews the structural, social and individual factors underlying women’s decisions to migrate and presents findings with regard to their employment status, human rights and the vulnerability of their position in their destination countries.

C. ORGANIZATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

D. COLLABORATION ON TRAINING, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION USE

In its capacity as an observer agency, CELADE has continued to participate in the two intergovernmental dialogues on migration in the region: the Regional Conference on Migration (known as the Puebla process) and the South American Conference on Migration. At the eighth Regional Conference on Migration, (Cancún, Mexico, May 2003), CELADE and IOM reported on the progress of the Statistical Information System on Migration in Central America (SIEMCA) Project, whose purpose is to help improve understanding of migratory processes in order to facilitate the adoption of government policies and measures; to this end, in 2003 CELADE generated a set of special tabulations using the information on migration contained in the censuses conducted by the Central American countries. In April 2003, CELADE participated in a second technical consultative meeting, held in Asunción, Paraguay, in preparation for the Fourth South American Conference on Migration and collaborated with IOM in setting out project priorities and profiles in the different areas identified in the plan of action adopted at the Third Conference (Quito, 2002); the Fourth Conference is to take place in Montevideo in November 2003.

Technical cooperation provided to the countries of the region by CELADE in 2003 has included support to the Government of Chile in designing its policy on migration and to the Government of Nicaragua in incorporating migration issues into its national poverty eradication strategy. Technical guidelines are also being furnished to the Government of Paraguay for the analysis of information on migration contained in the 2001 national population and housing census with a view to redefining its policies in this regard. CELADE also provides intensive advisory assistance to public and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, researchers and students in the countries on a number of aspects of international migration, as well as responding to queries from the press in the different countries. As a part of these responsibilities, the web site on migration is updated on a regular basis (www.cepal.cl/celade/migración).

Planned future activities

The ECLAC programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium includes a number of activities on international migration, which are summarized in the following points:

1. The IMILA database will continue to be updated, thanks to the availability of the databases corresponding to the most recent censuses conducted in the countries of the region (some are scheduled up to 2006). Of particular interest will be the review and broad dissemination of the information (using the institutional web site) and the preparation of documents to be presented at national and regional technical and academic meetings. In addition to updating the matrix of intraregional movements, ECLAC plans to extend it to include new tabulations, in particular to permit greater geographical disaggregation and to map specific gender features.
2. Priority attention will be devoted on an ongoing basis to the gender perspective in migratory processes. To this end, the line of work begun in 2003 will be carried further by strengthening links with the ECLAC Women and Development Unit and Human Rights Unit and by interacting with a network of academic and civil society organizations in the countries of the region.
3. Technical cooperation with Governments, international agencies and other interested sectors will continue, as will participation in specialized meetings on international migration. In the framework of an agreement signed with the United Nations Population Fund, in the coming months a study will be prepared to assist with policies on international migration and development in Nicaragua. The partnership with IOM makes for intensive cooperation on joint initiatives regarding aspects of migration and development, training and dissemination of information. CELADE also plans to broaden its work with other components of the United Nations system.
4. Technical cooperation will continue to be provided to intergovernmental forums on migration, especially those concerned with carrying forward the activities envisaged in the respective plans of action. Collaboration

5. Priority will continue to be placed on the study of migration and globalization, in furtherance of the mandate conferred upon ECLAC by the countries on the basis of the working material presented by the secretariat at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission (Brasilia, 2002). ECLAC therefore intends to carry out, within the next biennium, a research project on processes of subregional integration and mobility in the region; in this regard, an interdivisional project has been prepared and submitted to the Commission of the European Union for consideration (“Cooperation between the European Union and Latin America on New Dimensions of Regional Integration”). This project will involve active technical collaboration in subregional integration schemes and will draw on cooperative ties with key actors in European integration processes for this purpose.
6. Projects have been submitted to potential donors on issues relating to remittances, migrant associations, gender and migrant returns; as these projects come on line, CELADE will seek out experts in the region in order to set up the corresponding working teams.
7. As part of its internal evaluation procedures, in the first quarter of 2003 CELADE conducted a survey of Governments to ascertain their views regarding its activities in the field of international migration. The results turned in a favourable evaluation, which ECLAC considers to be a significant endorsement of its contribution in this area. For this reason, the follow-up to the resolutions adopted at the Hemispheric Conference on International Migration: Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons in the Americas - above and beyond the broad dissemination of the summary report, which is currently in press- will be undertaken by the various ECLAC divisions as a joint effort.

Table 1

Countries	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000 a/
Argentina	1960	1970	1980	1991	
Bolivia		1976		1992	2000b/
Brazil			1980	1991	2000b/
Canada		1971	1981/1986		1996b/
Chile		1970	1982	1992	2000b/
Colombia				1993	
Costa Rica	1963	1973	1984		2000
Cuba					
Dominican Republic		1970			
Ecuador			1982	1990	2000b/
El Salvador				1992	
Guatemala		1973	1981	1994	
Haiti		1971			
Honduras					2000b/
Mexico				1990	2000
Nicaragua		1971		1995	
Panama		1970	1980	199	

1971