



PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**SPEECH GIVEN BY CLAUDIA RUIZ MASSIEU, MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF MEXICO AT THE  
HIGH LEVEL EVENT ON STRENGTHENING COOPERATION ON  
MIGRATION AND REFUGEES AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

**New York, 30 September 2015  
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations;  
Distinguished Heads of State and Government;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Migration is a multidimensional reality, associated with the evolution of humanity. Throughout history, migrations have contributed to the economic, social and cultural construction of the majority of nations. This is a structural matter, not a circumstantial one; and it is a pending task of our organization.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda established the migrants, regardless of their migratory status, are a valuable agent for the promotion of development. This recognition should translate into a better protection for all of their rights and into public policies that address the root causes of migration: better work, access to education, health and justice.

Regrettably, at the current moment we observe that groups of migrants, and on the other hand, groups of refugees, are facing situations of risk, rejection, discrimination and abuse. The two groups should not be mistaken, as they respond to very diverse causes.

Some countries question the principles of *non refoulment* in the case of refugees and others criminalize migrants.

These conditions are made worse when migrants and their children are stigmatized and made responsible for the destination countries' own difficulties out of ignorance, racism and mere political opportunism. Let us not let this injustice continue.

We should overcome the lack of understanding of these phenomena and adopt actions consistent with human rights that allow us to maximize their benefits. We cannot continue to watch as millions of people risk their lives, becoming victims of crime, and suffering exploitation.

Mexico fully understands the migratory phenomenon, as we are a country of origin, transit, destination and return. My country has experience and good practices that we wish to share with the world.

Mexico has a long tradition of welcoming. On several occasions, its doors have been kept open to the arrival of refugees of diverse origins, resulting in great benefits to our society and culture. In light of current challenges, we remain true to those principles.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Throughout the globe, millions of migrants need a collective and effective global response that should come from the United Nations.

Through concrete measures, Mexico has sought a better understanding at the global level of the migratory phenomenon and the role of the United Nations in this regard. The “High Level Declaration on Migration and Development”, promoted by my country and adopted by the General Assembly in 2013, shows that it is possible to reach agreements and that we are not starting from zero.

A multidimensional phenomenon such as migration, with edges that touch the three pillars of the United Nations, cannot be ignored by this body. The United Nations should fulfill its responsibility to serve as the universal forum to address this phenomenon, as it does with other global issues.

Thank you very much.