

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).

A. ORGANIZATION OF INFORMATION ON MIGRATION

Since the early 1970s, CELADE has been working on the Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) Project. This is an intraregional cooperation effort that gathers and organizes information on the scale and features of regional migration. The project involves compiling and processing data obtained from population censuses on members of the population born abroad. These data, which are remitted to CELADE by national statistical offices, are used to identify members of the population counted in censuses in countries other than their countries of birth and then to quantify and describe stocks of immigrants and emigrants up to the date of each census. This information is then used to create 14 basic tables on migrants' sociodemographic and socio-economic features, by gender (age, fertility rates, infant mortality, marital status, education and labour status) and by country of birth. These tables are available in a special area of the ECLAC web site (www.eclac.cl/celade) and are published in the *Demographic Bulletin*, which CELADE issues on a regular basis (the annexed table shows the availability of IMILA information by country and census round).

B. ANALYSIS OF MIGRATION PATTERNS AND TRENDS IN THE REGION

The migration research activities conducted by CELADE form part of the substantive work of ECLAC. One example of its work is the interdivisional document, *Globalization and development* (LC/G.2157(SES.29/3), presented at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission (Brasilia, May 2002), which contains a chapter that explores the interrelationships between international migration and globalization and examines a number of proposals for action in this regard. In this same spirit, and in furtherance of its programme of work, in the 2002-2003 biennium CELADE prepared a number of studies on patterns and trends in international migration on the part of Latin American and Caribbean nationals, which may be consulted on the ECLAC web site. One of these studies, on international migration by Latin American and Caribbean nationals in the Americas, served as an introduction for the Hemispheric Conference on International Migration: Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons in the Americas, which was held in Santiago, Chile, in November 2002. Another, on the sociodemographic and economic features of international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (published in *Capítulos del SELA*: 65, May-August 2002, pp. 26-67), was debated at a regional technical seminar held in Caracas, Venezuela, in August 2002. Other more specific documents, which have also been presented at regional and subregional forums and seminars, refer to remittances and their impact on social welfare (Puebla, Mexico, January 2003), regional migration trends (Quito, Ecuador, August 2003) and the challenges of the regional migratory agenda (Asunción, Paraguay, August 2003).

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

Together with IOM and with the collaboration of seven international agencies,¹ ECLAC, through CELADE (with the support of the secretariat of the Commission and the Social Development Division’s Human Rights Unit), organized the Hemispheric Conference on International Migration: Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons in the Americas, which took place in Santiago, Chile, from 20 to 22 November 2002. The main objective of this meeting was to strengthen cooperation among Governments with regard to international migration and to identify mechanisms that can help to protect and promote the human rights of migrants, help to combat and prevent trafficking in persons and contribute to fulfilment of the relevant international mandates. The Hemispheric Conference sparked a great deal of interest in the countries, as was apparent from the reactions of government agencies, academic institutions and civil society and from the press coverage it attracted. This may be attributed to the fact that the meeting convened official delegations from the Governments of all the ECLAC member countries, experts from international organizations, academic figures and representatives of civil society organizations; this last group also held a side event. The summary report of the meeting (“Hemispheric Conference on International Migration: Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons in the Americas”, see press releases) presents a review of the facts highlighted in the debate and a summary of the presentations and discussions of each session; the annexes contain the conclusions signed by the government delegates and the declaration issued by the civil society organizations.

CELADE participates regularly in regional and national meetings on matters relating to international migration. In 2003, in particular, CELADE participated in: (a) the First International Forum on the Latin American Diaspora in the United States and Canada (Puebla, February 2003), organized by the State of Puebla and the Foundation for Rural Productivity, with the sponsorship of a number of Mexican and international institutions, at which a document on remittances in the region was presented; (b) a seminar on migration and integration (Quito, August 2003), organized by IOM and the Governments of Ecuador and Chile, at which a lecture was given on trends in international migration; (c) The First Paraguayan Population Congress (Asunción, August 2003), organized by the Paraguayan Association of Population Studies (ADEPO), at which a lecture was given on international migration in the region and the challenges for an agenda on migration; and (d) the seventh Jornadas Migratorias de Chile (Santiago, September 2003), a roundtable on migration organized by Chilean Catholic Institute for Migration (INCAMI) with the support of IOM, at which a document on migration and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean was presented.

¹ The Conference was supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); also collaborating were the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

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 in this area will benefit from the partnership with IOM.

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

**AVAILABILITY OF IMILA PROJECT INFORMATION
IN CENSUS ROUNDS**

Countries	Census rounds				
	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	1990	2000
Paraguay		1972	1982	1992	
Peru			1981	1993	
United States		1970	1980	1990	2000c/
Uruguay		1975	1985	1996	
Venezuela		1971	1981	1990	2000b/

Source: CELADE IMILA Project.

a/ Information available up to first semester of 2003.

b/ Initial results; Belize was added in 1990, and full information for that country is also available for 2000.

c/ Data from the Continuous Population Survey of 2000.