



29 August, 2012. Panama City, Panama

**Declaration on International Migration (v3)
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CONSIDERATIONS

Aware of the fact that international migration is an essential item of the agenda of our organization's member countries;

Underscoring that migration is an issue of hemispheric importance that carries implications for the development of our peoples;

Recognizing that our countries are witness to different manifestations of international migration that turn them into countries of origin, transit, destination and return for migrants;

Considering that, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM¹), "... *there has been increasing global awareness of the different forms of movement - regular and irregular, voluntary and forced - and the impact of this movement on social, economic, and political sectors of all countries.*"

Noting that our Parliaments may not ignore the migration agenda, and that our organization should ascribe to it a far more important role in the inter-parliamentary dialogue on hemispheric issues;

Acknowledging and welcoming the general trend towards the strengthening of migrants' human rights irrespective of their nationality, ethnicity, gender, age and migratory situation, further underscoring the attention to be given to vulnerable groups such as women, children and adolescents, elderly people and victims of organized crime;

Knowing that, as per IOM figures, the estimated number of international migrants globally has increased in recent years to almost 214 million people, i.e. 3.1% of the global population (if brought together, migrants would constitute the fifth most populated country in the world);

Aware of the importance of immigrants for all countries of the Hemisphere, where they have become a significant population segment;

Underscoring that millions of undocumented immigrants are estimated to live in various countries of our Hemisphere, with the great majority of them coming from Central America, South America and the Caribbean;

¹ International Organization for Migration: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/about-migration/developing-migration-policy/lang/en/pid/269>

The Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas hereby

RESOLVES

- I. To urge candidates to the various elective positions, in all countries, to responsibly partake in the public discussion on international migration. We favour a discussion that underscores the shared responsibility of all members of the international community, and the need to have a legal framework in place that respects the human rights of migrants.
- II. To acknowledge the efforts made in some member countries at both a federal and local level, to favour laws that recognize the commercial, political, cultural and intellectual contribution that migrants make to our societies.
- III. To salute and support the process whereby some member States have invested in the human capital offered by immigrants through schemes such as the Dream Act in the USA, and have supported the establishment of mechanisms to regularize the situation of immigrants that contribute their intellectual and human capital to our countries.
- IV. To share the best practices implemented in ParlAmericas member countries through initiatives for the discussion and harmonization of policies as they relate to constitutional, legislative and public policy reforms in favour of a legal, safe and orderly immigration.
- V. To bear in mind the need to promote the adequate management of labour migration, further acknowledging the complementarity of labour markets, and to facilitate labour mobility while recognizing the contribution that migrants make to their societies of origin and destination.