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IOM Regional Director was present in the Inauguration Day of the Argentine President Mauricio Macri

IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, greeted the Argentine President Mauricio Macri during his Inauguration Day last 10th of December in San Martin Palace in Buenos Aires.

Our Partners
The MERCOSUR Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights (IPPDH) is one of our main partners in South America.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

On December 18, International Migrants Day, IOM remembered through a vigil candlelight, those migrants who lost their lives in 2015.

Video: Youtube/OIMSuramerica

IOM invited by the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil to comment on the Draft Law on Migration

The Special Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, requested IOM technical support in the process of review and discussion of this project that, if approved, will replace the Federal Law No. 6.815 / 80 (“Statute do Estrangeiro” in Portuguese) enacted during the military dictatorship.

Paraguay Formalizes Migration Policy Document

The approval of the Migration Policy Document of Paraguay was made official through Decree No 4.483. This document becomes the main instrument for appropriate governance in the field of migration in the country.

VI World Encounter of Consultative Councils and First Encounter of Uruguayan Associations abroad

The opening ceremony of the “VI World Encounter of Consultative Councils and the First Encounter of Uruguayan Associations abroad” was held on Tuesday December 8 in the Cabildo de Montevideo. The activities took place on December 8, 9 and 10.

IOM ratifies its compromise of cooperation with MERCOSUR and Associated States

IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, participated during the first week of november in the LVII Specialized Forum on Migration of MERCOSUR and Associated States and the Specialized Forum on Migration, meetings carried out in Paraguay in the framework of the Pro Tempore Presidency held by this country.

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Last 25 November, IOM Argentina coordinated the First Workshop on Interculturality, Migration and Communication at the main office of the National Directorate of Migration (NDM). The activity was aimed at the agency staff and organized as a follow-up to the Agreement signed by Gabriela Fernández, Head of Office of IOM Argentina, and Martín Arias Duval, the former National Director of Migration, for the implementation of the Project “Promoting the Social Inclusion of Migrants in Argentina” funded by the IOM Development Fund.

The workshop was attended by the NDM senior officials Paola Bordas, Director of the Career Development Department, and Juliana Bello, Head of Social Affairs of the International and Social Affairs Direction, and was coordinated by Mariana Beheran, Laura Gottero and Lorena Haupt from IOM Argentina. The purpose of the activity was to characterize the points where migrants and migrant agents interact regarding procedures, queries, and other administrative proceedings at the NDM. To this end, IOM Argentina had previously conducted a report which compiled the difficulties mentioned by migrants in their intercultural communication with the agency personnel.

This report was provided before the workshop, as a means of reflecting on automatic practices, communication and attitudes.

Inputs were introduced at the workshop in order to “deactivate what is automatic” during intercultural communication situations, not only as a manifestation of migrant vs. non-migrant (government staff) diversity, but also as a meeting point between the institution’s unified discourse and the migrants’ heterogeneous ones.

The participants worked on the so-called basic rules to train intercultural communication: 1) enriching one’s own communicational competence; 2) becoming interested in the other person’s culture; and 3) reflecting upon the contents and practices of one’s own culture. Furthermore, fundamental concepts such as “metacommunication”, “stereotype”, and “prejudice” were broached as well.

In addition, the coordinators underlined how the relationship between interculturality and bureaucracy poses a challenge for the public administration as a whole, and encouraged the participants to identify and reinforce the intercultural communication skills they apply daily in their jobs.
IOM invited by the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil to comment on the Draft Law on Migration

By: Juliana Quintero

The Special Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, responsible for delivering an opinion on the Draft Law No. 2516 of 2015 of the Federal Senate of Brazil, requested IOM technical support in the process of review and discussion of this project that, if approved, will replace the Federal Law No. 6.815 / 80 ("Statute do Estrangeiro" in Portuguese) enacted during the military dictatorship.

In response to this request, IOM provided comments to the bill during a public hearing held in the Chamber of Deputies in Brasilia on Wednesday November 11.

Commenting on the draft law, Matteo Mandrile, Regional Project Development Officer, said “the bill integrates the main standards and principles of human rights based on both international treaties and the recommendations of the monitoring mechanisms of international agreements on the same subject”.

Mandrile emphasized that this is a significant and very positive change for the country, considering that the law passes from a security paradigm to one of human rights. He added: “The regulation of this project will guarantee, in an effective and practical form, the wide recognition of rights and principles acknowledged by the draft text”.

Deputy Orlando Silva, Rapporteur of the Special Commission of the Draft Law in the Chamber of Deputies, thanked IOM for its significant contribution to the construction of the new migration policy framework in Brazil. Silva emphasized the objectivity of IOM technical observations and suggestions and ensured they will be subjected to a careful analysis by the Special Commission in order to finalize the adjustment of the bill before it is voted upon by the Chamber of Deputies.

Brazil joins other South American countries that have requested IOM’s technical support to discuss their draft laws related to migration. Recently, IOM’s technical specialists provided comments on the draft Law on Human Mobility of Ecuador and the Government of Chile expressed interest in receiving the same kind of comment on its draft Law on Migration from IOM.

As regards migration, Brazil has gone from being an origin country to a destination country mainly of intraregional migration flows. The gradual influx of Haitians, who benefit from a humanitarian visa for entry into the country, stands out. Recently, in order to strengthen the regular and safe migration flows, IOM in support to the Government of Brazil, opened the Visa Application Center Brazil (BVAC).

The country also reports flows of Dominicans as well as Africans, mainly from Senegal.

Video
IOM Organizes a Binational Exchange of Health Professionals from Chilean and Colombian Ministries of Health

November 16, 2015
By: Press unit IOM Chile

On November 12th and 13th the “Chile-Colombia Binational Exchange for Migrant Health” was held in accordance with the Agreements established in August at the preparatory meeting in Antofagasta, as a part of the project “Towards the Strengthening of a Binational Health Agenda for Migrants in the Northern Regions of Tacna, Arica, and Antofagasta.” A project carried out with resources from the IOM Development Fund, under the leadership of the IOM missions of Chile, Colombia, and Peru.

This event was attended by representatives from the Chilean and Colombian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Health Service and Hospital, and the Regional Ministerial Secretariat of Health in Antofagasta, as well as authorities form the Municipality of Antofagasta, CESFAM (Family Health Centers) teams, and representatives from the civil society organizations.

The exchange focused on a general analysis of health issues from a binational perspective, including systems and records of information, comprehensive models for the challenges faced by the migratory process (including socio-epidemiological and health care aspects), and anthropological factors and inter-cultural processes involved in migration.

The topics presented and debated allowed an in-depth analysis of different scenarios, focusing on guidelines to be considered to elaborate a binational agenda for the health care of migrants. The actions proposed within a binational migratory policy should respond to a governmental perspective that inherently contemplates migratory coherence, with each government being integrated as a strategic axis within a rights-based context and focus.

The Exchange concluded with an agreement on a binational agenda based on the following working guidelines:

1. Create a binational mechanism that focuses on migrant population’s health care, within the framework of the Migratory and Consular Affairs Commission recently established by the governments of Chile and Colombia, in accordance with the manifested political will of both governments and the historical tradition of agreements between the two countries.

2. Formulate a public policy on migrant health care that focuses on personal attention, aimed at eliminating access barriers, and the promotion of friendly services such as information, training, communication, and the participation of the migrant population from a rights-based perspective.

3. Establishing a timeline and work plan on health care issues, supported by the governments of Chile and Colombia through their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

4. Exchanging programs that will allow sharing information systems, studies of the areas of the origin of migration, incorporation of ongoing research into the process, primary health care methodologies and strategies, and other topics of interest to the two Ministries.

The foregoing proposal was fully supported by the decision-makers and technicians from both countries who attended the exchange, including Mr. Zamir Nayar, Director of the Antofagasta Health Service, and Mr. Paulo Rodríguez from the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with the unanimous support expressed by the IOM Mission Chiefs in Chile and Colombia, Norberto Girón and Alejandro Guidi, respectively.

Meanwhile, the Chiefs of Mission from IOM Chile and Colombia, Mr. Norberto Girón and Mr. Alejandro Guidi respectively, gave their unanimous support and manifest good will towards the guidelines established for the concretion of the binational agenda, and exalted the great efforts concretized by the governments of both countries, represented by their Ministries of Foreign Relations and Health, on behalf of the required demand for joint elaboration of policies and the coordination of actions in the areas
“This war has made us unable to love”

By: Nicolás Cárdenas

After a two-year process, the National Center for Historical Memory, with USAID and IOM support, presented a new historical memory report that seeks to understand the violence, affectations and resistance lived by LGBT people in Colombia’s internal conflict.

“This war has made us unable to love,” concludes one of the 63 people who participated in the production of the report. Colombia’s internal armed conflict deepened and intensified the continuum of violence against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people given their sexual orientation and gender identity. In this sense, the report “Eradicate differences: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in Colombia’s armed conflict,” is a wake-up call so society recognizes the suffering of LGBT populations and the specific ways they were impacted, while also highlighting the resistance, actions and transformations led by these groups.

The report has four thematic chapters, beginning with a context describing the conditions that allowed this violence to take place. The second chapter analyzes the actions by illegal armed actors, the characteristics of victims and the types of violence used. The third chapter reflects on the impacts, damages and affectations resulting from these types of violence. Finally, the last chapter describes the resistance of victims, including a set of conclusions and recommendations that emphasize that there is no justification for any type of violence against an individual based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

“This historical memory report shows how there have been and still are people in the regions who have been attacked, abused, displaced because of their sexual orientation or sexual identity. Violence has occurred against people because they are gay, lesbian, because of that difference identified by armed groups and that makes them targets of war”, expressed Nancy Prada, coordinator of the National Center for Historical Memory Gender Group.

IOM Colombia Chief of Mission Alejandro Guidi highlighted the report’s importance describing how “materials and processes like this one allow us to understand the realities that the country has ignored over the years and in that way recognize the damages caused and foster inclusive policies for reparation and dignity.”

Besides semi-structured interviews and other qualitative methods, the process to produce the report included the revision of human rights and press archives, workshops and focal groups, and the creation of a bank of images. Rommel Rojas, IOM’s gender specialist who accompanied the process, considers that “photography is a tool that makes the creation of alternative narratives possible…the report Eradicate differences emphasizes resistance processes” (see photo gallery on the process).

The report is available here: http://bit.ly/1lQLzxI

Photo gallery by Rommel Rojas Rubio

Read Carlos’ story, a colombian migrant in Bangladesh soyemigrante.org
IOM IN MERCOSUR

IOM ratifies its compromise of cooperation with MERCOSUR and Associated States

November 2, 2015

By: Eduardo Carrillo

IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, visited the city of Asunción during the first week of November in order to represent IOM in a series of MERCOSUR high-level meetings carried out in the framework of the Pro Tempore Presidency held by Paraguay in the organization.

On Wednesday November 4, the Regional Director presented to delegates of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay, Paraguay and Venezuela in the context of the LVII Specialized Forum on Migration of MERCOSUR and Associated States - chaired by René González Director of Admission of Foreigners of the General Directorate of Migration Paraguay - in which he offered the international delegations IOM’s experience in migration matters and the fight against human trafficking. He also expressed the need for national training for each State Party following its particularities and highlighted the necessity to strengthen the South-South Cooperation regarding migration.

The Specialized Forum on Migration is an instance working within the Meetings of Interior Ministers of MERCOSUR and Associated States, responsible for debating migration-related matters in the region: from draft regulations to be applied to the impact of migration flows in the region.

The day after, the Regional Director attended the VII Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities for Women of MERCOSUR (RMAAM), meeting chaired by the Minister of Women of Paraguay Ana Maria Baiardi, during which international authorities and delegates of MERCOSUR member states listened to his speech “The importance of having a Regional Plan to unify the route of intervention of Human trafficking in MERCOSUR countries”. He stressed the regional and MERCOSUR advances in the fight against human trafficking and made available the know how of IOM in the field and the possibility to plan a regional workshop to set the roadmaps.

RMAAM is the instance of dialogue between the Top Gender Authorities in the MERCOSUR institutional structure created in December 2011 by decision N° 24/11 of the Common Market Council.

The MERCOSUR Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights (IPPDH) is an intergovernmental body created in the year 2009 by decision 1409 of the Common Market Council (CMC) whose main functions are technical cooperation, research, training, and support in the coordination of regional policies of human rights.

IPPDH develops institutional projects dealing with the priority thematic areas of human rights in the region which include policies of memory, truth, justice and reparation in cases of grave violations; policies of equality and no discrimination; policies of prevention of institutional violence and public security, and institutional infrastructure in human rights.

Our Partners

http://www.ippdh.mercosur.int/
Workshop on Migration Policies and Human Rights for Young Leaders in the Region of South America

By: Manuel Hoff

The IOM Regional Office for South America in coordination with the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the MERCOSUR Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights (IPPDH) carried out on November 23-25, a workshop on migration policies and human rights for young leaders in the region of South America.

The workshop was addressed to young leaders of the South American civil society and the government youth organizations of the region. For three days, the participants debated experiences and strategies to promote the inclusion of approaches on human rights and migration in the youth policies in the framework of UNASUR, considering the regional migration dynamics, regional policies on human rights and the process of regional integration and South American citizenship.

During the opening speech, IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, underlined the advances of the region in migration matters including the process of regional integration with a strong focus on migrants’ human rights.

Javier Palumbo, Director of Research and Information Management of the MERCOSUR IPPDH, talked about the importance of crossing human rights with the policies of all states in the region and the regional policies, reason why this space of dialogue was considered important.

The Secretary General of UNASUR Ernesto Samper joined the workshop and addressed some words to the participants, highlighting the importance of this activity as part of the consolidation of a South American citizenship.

Regional Conference on Migration Convenes in Mexico City

November 11, 2015

Government officials from the 11 countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) – Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States – participated in the Annual Vice-Ministerial of the group at the 20th RCM meeting held this week in Mexico City.

During the four-day meeting, which ended on November 11, Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Interior and government officials responsible of migration, discussed key issues such as return, integration and reintegration of migrants.

During the Regional Conference on Migration in Mexico, the Regional Director greeted the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Honduras, Maria Andrea Castillo Matamoros.

Honduras took over the Presidency Pro Tempore of the CRM 2016.

The RCM marks its twentieth anniversary this year and over the past two decades the countries of the RCM have maintained their commitment to frank and honest discussions on regional migration issues. They have launched regional initiatives to protect the human rights of migrants and strengthen the integrity of member states’ migration laws, borders and national security.
Paraguay
Paraguay Formalizes Migration Policy Document

By: Eduardo Carrillo

The approval of the Migration Policy Document of Paraguay was made official through Decree No 4.483. This document becomes the main instrument for appropriate governance in the field of migrations in the country.

Elaborated over the last year under the leadership of the General Direction of Migrations, supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and funded by IOM Development Fund (IDF for its English acronym), this important tool was created in the framework of the project “Strengthening the Migration Management System in Paraguay” which involved a set of components, being the elaboration of such policy one of the most important.

The development of the Document on Migration Policy, which meant hard work throughout 2014, and included more than 42 counterparts of several bodies such as government entities dealing with migration, civil society, the academia and the private sector, thus making up the National Team of Migration Policy (ENPM).

Each sector’s contributions and observations were a key factor in the development of a document of transversal migration policy inclusive of all actors involved in the migration field which highlights concepts like human rights and the protection and respect for migrants.

Bolivia
The Process of Migration Management Updating in Bolivia comes to an end

November 9, 2015

By: Adriana Arduz

The second session of the Migration Updating Course in its third version began in October in the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia, as part of the continued development and strengthening of the technical capacities of the General Direction of Migration (DGM) public servants.

The final stage of the course included subject matters dealing with Migration and Human Rights, Migration Policies and Human Rights, and Public Migration Management among others qualitatively complementing and improving activities and good practices to meet the challenges required by migration management in Bolivia.

The course took place in the framework of the project “Optimization of the Migration Information System in Bolivia oriented to knowledge management” funded by IOM Development Fund (IDF) and allowed the participation of various specialists from the region (e.g. Argentina and Cuba) who shared experiences and advances regarding migration management.
The Second Edition of the Migrant’s Week “Peru with you” was launched

December 14, 2015

By: Inés Calderón

A press conference was held on the occasion of launching the second edition of the Migrant’s Week “Peru with you” in the framework of the commemoration of the International Migrants Day on December 18.

The event was headed by the Ambassador Ana María Sánchez Vargas de Ríos, Minister of Foreign Affairs accompanied by Mr. Daniel Maurate Romero, Minister of Labor and Promotion of Employment; Minister Carlos Polo Castañeda, Director General of Peruvian Communities abroad and Consular Affairs; Minister Carlos Vallejo Martell, President of the Intersectoral Work Group for Migration Management; Mr. Ricardo Cordero of the IOM Regional Office for South America, and the Ombudsman, Mr. Eduardo Vega Luna, among other guests.

During her intervention, Chancellor Sánchez highlighted Peru’s commitment to promote –from various sectors- an integral migration management, coherent and focused on the human beings and the respect of their fundamental rights with a perspective of social and productive inclusion. Under this logic, she emphasized the approval of the “General Guidelines of Migration Policy in Peru” by the Intersectoral Work Group for Migration Management (MTIGM). This document reflects the approaches, principles and lines of action that aim at updating the vision and management of migration in Peru.

Finally, she referred in a special way to the Minister of Labor for his role as co-organizer of the Migrant’s Week and thanked the International Organization for Migration whose technical and logistic assistance constitute a driving force for the MTIGM activities.

For his part, Daniel Maurate Romero, Minister of Labor and Promotion of Employment (MTPE), pointed out that, from his Ministry, efforts have been combined to foster employment, employability and decent jobs so that the decision to migrate could be an option and not a need.

IOM representative, Ricardo Cordero, claimed that the commemoration of the International Migrants Day next December 18 must push us to double the efforts of the international community to protect the migrants’ lives and create channels to facilitate regular and safe migration.

Likewise, he added that as part of the fight against xenophobia, IOM, showing several life stories and testimonies of migrants’ contribution to development, has globally launched the campaign “I am a migrant” whose goal is to promote the recognition of the positive contributions of migrants to the destination societies.

He recognized the work of the “Intersectoral Work Group for Migration Management” in Peru naming it an “effort constituting the search of improvement in the inter-institutional articulation to approach the diverse aspects of politics and national migration management”.

He also welcomed the enactment, some months ago, of the Legislative Decree No 1236 approved by the New Law of Migrations of Peru “law that reaffirms the efforts to improve the management of migration flows of foreigners in the country, with a new national legal framework for the protection of human rights of migrant men and women, recognizing their contributions to the development and the respect to family union and the best interest of children”.

Read Jeremy’s story, a canadian migrant in Peru

soymigrante.org
VI World Encounter of Consultative Councils and First Encounter of Uruguayan Associations abroad

December 11, 2015

By: Marcelo Minoletti

The opening ceremony of the “VI World Encounter of Consultative Councils and the First Encounter of Uruguayan Associations abroad” was held on Tuesday December 8 in the Cabildo de Montevideo. The activities took place on December 8, 9 and 10. The event involved the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rodolfo Nin Novoa and the Director of Institutional Liaisons of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Jorge Muiño.

The Minister referred to and stood out the continuous work carried out by Ambassador Muiño regarding the strengthening of relations with the Uruguayan community living abroad.

Additionally, both authorities underlined the need to keep on working in the same line, developing mechanisms that allow approaching all those Uruguayans who, for any reason, have had to migrate to other countries. IOM was part of this significant event with the participation of Regional Director, Mr. Diego Beltrand and IOM Head of Mission in Uruguay, Alba Goycochea.

Both events addressed subject matters like “Strengthening Uruguayan identity and promotion of the national culture and the construction of the Uruguayan citizenship abroad which involves the right to vote abroad”.

In the last years, the connection with the diaspora (known as department number 20) has increased due to the inclusion of this thematic as one of the basic pillars of the country’s foreign policy. In this respect, mechanisms to facilitate returns and the proceedings and formalities of Uruguayans abroad have been designed.

It is worth noting that this encounter has been highly significant in terms of strengthening Uruguayan diaspora becoming an instance of mutual enrichment and link invigoration.

IOM invited by the Consulate of Ecuador in Venezuela to celebrate the International Migrants Day and present the campaign I am a Migrant

December 19, 2015

By: Estefanía Febres

To mark International Migrants Day this December 18 IOM was invited to participate in an event held in the Ecuadorian Consulate in Venezuela. During the event, stories of migrants were shared and the participants took part of the global candlelight vigil.

Read Franco’s story, an Italian migrant in Uruguay
soymigrante.org