



Side-event OACNUDH - Upholding the Human Rights guiding principle in the Global Compact for Migration”

STATEMENT

Honorable Mrs. MICHELLE BACHELET, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Distinguished Ministers and Ambassadors,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is not a coincidence that one of the guiding principles of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is human rights. And it also, not a coincidence that during its negotiation, and the one of the Progress Declaration that we will adopt tomorrow, Colombia fought for the inclusion of the language that clearly calls for the respect, protection and fulfillment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status.

With these instruments, we recognize the opportunity to improve migration governance, address the challenges associated with migration and strengthen the contribution of migrants to development. Furthermore, incorporating international cooperation into the Global Compact also reflects our willingness to reaffirm the centrality of Shared Responsibility as a guiding principle of migration management.

None of this can happen without a human rights perspective that aims to prioritize the principle of equality and non-discrimination.



Human rights cannot be fulfilled if we do not implement a holistic approach based on human dignity. In turn, the realization of economic, social and cultural rights is essential for a dignify life.

It is with that spirit that Colombia has shaped its migration policy in the last few years as a country of origin, transit, destination and return. I would like to highlight some of the measures our government has undertaken in that regard.

We enacted the Comprehensive Migration Policy (PIM) a legal framework that comprises measures to improve and dignify the quality of life not only of Colombians living abroad and those who decide to return, but also of migrants in the national territory, notably our Venezuelan brothers and sisters who were forced to leave their country in search of a better life.

We issued a resolution, as an exceptional and temporary measure, to grant ex officio nationality to the children of Venezuelans born in Colombian since 2015, and who were at risk of statelessness, benefitting approximately 70,000 children to date.

Most notably, Colombia created the Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelan Migrants (TPS) as an instrument for the regularization of migrants in the country.

This document enables Venezuelan migrants to remain in the country on a regular basis for ten years, allowing them to access the institutional framework in terms of education, social security in health and pension, products or services with financial entities, validate professional titles, process professional cards, enter and leave the country, among others.



As of May 13, 2022, the Migration Colombian office has granted more than one million Temporary Protection Permits to the Venezuelan population and the goal is to deliver 1.8 million by August 7, 2022, at the end of President Duque's administration.

Let me pause there to underline what this means in practice. It means that 1.8 million people have the possibility to access basic services on an equal basis, it means 1.8 million people are one step closer to the full realization of their human rights, thus to have the condition to develop their potentials; it means that they can live with dignity; it contributes to make migrants visible while dignifying them within our society.

The national government, has also taken actions in coordination with local authorities, donors, international, humanitarian and cooperation organizations, to complement the State's response to the needs of the migrant population coming from Venezuela and the host communities, thus avoiding duplication of efforts and maximizing partners interventions' impact, through the Interagency Group on Mixed Migratory Flows (GIFMM)

This space by its very nature has also served as an early warning mechanism wherein both Government institutions and bilateral and multilateral partners can raise urgent or emerging issues and coordinate a joint and timely response to prevent serious human rights violations.

In conclusion, in the wake of this set of actions, Colombia has been recognized as a Global Champion in the construction of schemes for the protection of migrants' rights, with a solid human rights approach. Recognizing that the current challenges faced by States in addressing migratory phenomena are considerable, Colombia reaffirms its commitment to building and sustaining constructive dialogues in favor of identifying good practices, challenges and goals towards



guaranteeing the rights of migrants under the principle of shared responsibility.

We must continue to work so that all the actors of the international system commit themselves to deploy their greatest actions in favor of the most vulnerable people, based on the principle of shared responsibility, and to leave no one behind.

It is our responsibility to ensure that, from the starting point that the GCM and the Progress Declaration represent, the call to action is unequivocal: human rights are for all.

I thank you.