



## Coordination Meeting of the GFMD Working Group n.4 - Latin America and the Caribbean

**Date: 21 september 2020**

**Time: 10:00 - 12:00 (EDT)**

### **Participants:**

- Mr. Nelson Fernández – Director of International Relations and Cooperation of the Municipality of Montevideo; Mercociudades;
- Ms. María de Luján Pérez – International Relations and Cooperation; Head of the Technical Secretariat of the LAC Coalition, International Relations and Cooperation Division, Municipality of Montevideo;
- Mr. Sergio Arredondo – Executive Secretary of the National Federation of Mexican Municipalities (FENAMM) and Executive Secretary of the Latin American Federation of Municipalities (FLACMA);
- Ms. Mónica Solórzano – Technical Director of the Latin American Federation of Municipalities (FLACMA) and Coordinator of the Regional Community of Practice "Platform for Sustainable Urban Mobility in LAC";
- Mr. Ricardo Chica – South America Focal Point, Migration Working Group, UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY);
- Ms. Léa Monteillet – MIEUX Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD);
- Ms. Naïké Chancy – MIEUX Associate Project Officer at the at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD);
- Ms. Lucía Moreno – MIEUX Intern at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

### **Organizers:**

- Ms. Glenda Noritza Maradiaga Galo – Officer of the Office for Assistance to Returning Migrants, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras;
- Ms. Fátima Fernández – Policy Officer, Secretariat of United Cities and Local Governments World (UCLG);
- Mr Alfred Woeger- MIEUX Senior Project Manager at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).



The GFMD Chairmanship focuses on the theme of: "**The Future of Human Mobility: Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Development**". The aim is to stimulate exchange between countries and regions on innovative approaches and lessons learned, in order to build partnerships between various actors interested in addressing challenges and opportunities related to migration and development issues.

**Main objective of the meeting:** Strengthen ties and exchange ideas on mutual interests to develop possibly future partnerships.

**Guiding question:**

- What is the problem to be solved?
- What are the levers to solving the problem?
- What activities could be included in the proposed partnership?
- What actors are key to implement these activities?
  - Are they around the table? If no, who is missing?
  - How to get missing actors on board (and what are the barriers to doing this)?

## What is the problem to be solved?

**Mr. Nelson Fernández, Secretary General, Mercociudades and Director of International Relations and Cooperation of the Municipality of Montevideo, Municipality of Montevideo:**

- Labour migration and access to the labour market
- Access to documentation and information
- Accreditation of diplomas
- Language barriers
- Discrimination and racism

**Mr. Sergio Arredondo – Executive Secretary of the Latin American Federation of Municipalities (FLACMA):**

- Migration issues are multidimensional and therefore need multidimensional solutions
- The local impact of human mobility needs to be addressed, it needs to be emphasized that the responsibility lies with local governments
- There is a need to develop the capacities of local governments in order to provide services to the migrant population
- Promote the development of institutional capacities based on the demand of the migrant population such as education, health, housing and employment
- Coordination issues between the different levels of government
- Need to promote collaboration between different local actors



- The need to promote public policies on migration that have the capacity to engage with the local-level
- Addressing the problems arising from the internal crisis in Venezuela and other governmental instability in the region, migration from Central America, migration to the USA
- Migration policies of the US government had a strong impact in Mexico in recent years. Local governments were in particular affected and had to respond to those changes
- Problems of access to international protection and access to regularization (access to documentation).

**Mr. Ricardo Chica – South America Focal Point, Migration Working Group, UNMGCY (results of a survey launched among the youth in Latin America and the Caribbean)**

- Ecuador and Colombia face challenges as neighbours of Venezuela, and local governments have not been able to provide its population with effective solutions
- Lack of information on the profile and different vulnerabilities of the migrant population
- In Ecuador, there is a lack of opportunities for the migrant population
- Non-regularisation of legal status
- Lack of accreditation of degrees, few facilities to obtain the Hague apostille
- An intersectional approach is needed to attend to children and young people, the LGBT population, women, pregnant women and the elderly. There is a need to convert these needs into public policies;
- Increase in xenophobia due to the role played by the media. There is a need to create communication tools and strategies. Cultural activities can be used to bring the culture and traditions of the migrant population closer to the local population
- Need to address the issue of the detention of children and adolescents at the border, as well as to guarantee the respect of human rights
- Greater involvement of the migrant population in decision-making processes

**Ms. Glenda Noritza Maradiaga Galo – Officer of the Office for Assistance to Returning Migrants, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras**

- Assistance to the migrant population
- Need for better protection of human rights of migrants along the migration route

**Jovenes por el Cambio (via zoom chat)**

- Unaccompanied children in migration
- The internal and external migration of minors between 8 and 17 years of age towards the departmental capitals and Chiapas, Mexico



## Tools and actors

### **Mss. María del Luján Pérez, LAC Coalition, Municipality of Montevideo:**

- Creation of multilevel body with participation of national and local government. Create a space for coordination to develop and strengthen migration governance
- Strengthen local governments, increase legal powers, more budget and human resources
- Strengthen the migratory institutions
- Provide legal channels for migrants (e.g. employment visas)
- Change the narrative: highlight the contributions of the migrant population to society
- Space for interaction between employers and the migrant population
- Local government and civil society participation in regional spaces.

### **Mr. Sergio Arredondo – Executive Secretary of FLACMA:**

- Identify basic objectives to know how to focus and orient legislative reforms
- Developing strategies to respond to the local impact of migration, especially in emergency situations
- Local government associations should be involved in the working groups. Strengthen contacts and networks of cities in which the problem of migration would have a greater emphasis
- Involvement of academic institutions is crucial
- Need for mapping of possible actors

### **Mr. Ricardo Chica – South America Focal Point, Migration Working Group, UN MGCY:**

- Strategies for intervention: various regional programmes, facilitate regularisation process, projects to promote legal assistance and other services, guarantee access to human rights, humanitarian assistance directly at the border especially now due to the risks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Ms. Glenda Noritza Maradiaga Galo –Office for Assistance to Returning Migrants, MFA Honduras;**

- There are regional spaces already working on this issue, such as the Regional Conference on Migration, the Central American Integration System and the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions. It is important to involve local governments in these spaces.

### **Ms. Léa Monteillet – MIEUX Regional Coordinator for Latin America, ICMPD;**

- Existing regional networks should be involved. For example, in the framework of the Migration EU eXpertise Initiative (MIEUX), representatives from 16 local governments in Latin America and the Caribbean participated in a regional meeting on "Influencing local public policies to address environmental migration in Latin America and the Caribbean", held in cooperation with the Simon Bolivar Andean University (UASB) in 2019. This meeting concluded with the signing of a regional manifesto, aimed at promoting the integration of the issue of environmental migration in local management and the creation of national and regional public policies in defence of the rights of people affected by environmental migration.



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## Activities

### **Mr. Nelson Fernández, Mercociudades, Municipality of Montevideo:**

- Change the narrative and start with the formulation of concrete actions, there should be a focus on a large multi-level and multi-sectoral agreement involving the United Nations and civil society
- Capitalise on the existence of entities such as UCLG, and initiatives such as "The Diversity Within You" ([www.coalicionlac.org](http://www.coalicionlac.org))
- It is important to take action and generate concrete results

### **Mr. Sergio Arredondo – Executive Secretary of FLACMA:**

- Organisation of a Regional Local Government Forum and workshops. The aim could be to develop a specific and concrete action plan;
- Promote the formulation of public policy that can be adapted to each local context in order to meet the needs of the population. This could be achieved by conducting a mapping of actors in close coordination with local governments;
- Involve academia and conduct field work such as the Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Mexico or the University of Florida in the United States of America.

### **Ms. Glenda Noritza Maradiaga Galo – Office for Assistance to Returning Migrants, MFA of Honduras:**

- Create partnerships with local, national and regional governments to empower the various actors who interact with migrants.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Participants were interested to continue the discussion and to develop concrete partnerships. Following this first exchange, the next meetings should be used to further discuss and develop more concrete ideas for partnerships.
- Participants highlighted the importance to review and consider existing initiatives at regional level in order to establish coherent and complementary frameworks for dialogue, cooperation and in particular partnerships. Common denominators for partnerships should be obtained from these existing regional frameworks in order to base the partnership on these existing efforts.
- It would be important to expand the number of actors involved in these meetings. In particular, actors from national governments, such as Jamaica or Venezuela expressing previously interest to develop concrete partnerships were unfortunately not able to attend this meeting.