

FIRST LATIN AMERICAN MIGRANT SUMMIT SUPRASSES EXPECTATIONS: MIGRANTS IDENTIFY PRIORITIES AND PROPOSE NEW INITIATIVES

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It was a happy coincidence that the First Latin American Migrant Summit opened on May 10, Mother's Day in Mexico. Warmed by the spring sun and surrounded by celebrations in honor of all those mothers who face family separation because of unfair migration policies, hundreds of Latin American migrant leaders now living around the world came together in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico to discuss the creation of a shared hemispheric agenda.

This historic meeting convened over a thousand participants, including the Summit's migrant organizers, civil society organization,

and migrant-led organizations in the United States, Europe and Latin America. Over the course of four days, participants were able to share experiences and ideas, all of which will undoubtedly enrich the work of attending organizations. The Summit was made possible through the joint efforts of hundreds of organizations and received generous support from the state government of Michoacán State and municipality of Morelia, as well as many private sponsors. It represents the first encounter between so many migrant organizations in search of a common agenda.

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WHY A LATIN AMERICAN MIGRANT SUMMIT?

The American continent is a continent of migrants. Practically all nations on this hemisphere have been affected by migration flows and are sending, receiving or transit countries—even a combination of all these. In some countries, the remittances sent home by foreign-based nationals play a crucial role in ensuring local economic stability. As migration flows have increased in the last two decades, migrant organizations have also sprung up in many countries. While these are wide-ranging and varied, they share a common goal: the construction of healthy communities in both countries of origin and destination.

Migration is a global phenomenon and it should ideally be approached from a global perspective. However, there were a number of reasons why the organizers decided to focus this Summit on Latin American migrants. On the one hand, this type of regional approach is more likely to result in concrete follow-up of proposed plans and projects. Additionally, the concentration of Latin American individuals in the United States, where they represent almost 75% of the total immigrant population, allowed for the participation of many national groups. Pragmatically speaking, the predominance of the Spanish language among Latin American groups also facilitated exchange. It should be pointed out, however, that a delegation of African migrants

currently residing in France joined the summit and enriched it with their contributions, which allowed us to compare the types of challenges faced by transnational communities in different contexts.

GOALS AND RESULTS

The Summit's ultimate goal was to strengthen the role of Latin American migrant organizations, which we consider to be key actors in the development of healthy communities in countries of origin and destination. These encounters reaffirmed the rich diversity of opinions to be found among the Latin American migrant community and articulated a number of different viewpoints about how best to address the challenges and opportunities brought about by migration.

The Summit spanned a wide variety of issues. May 10 activities focused on the role of immigrant women and the social impacts of migration. The emotional and very personal talks given by Mexican actress Cecilia Suárez and Ángela Sanbrano, President of the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC) moved everyone in the audience. Other subjects addressed during this first day included the importance of women's leadership in processes of migration; health and migration; gangs and social fears; human rights; the human and social costs of migration, and youth leadership.



Cultural aspects are very important for transnational communities and they did not go unattended: an exhibition including paintings, photography, film and a collection of children's drawings entitled "Vidas sin Fronteras," or Lives without Borders, was organized in collaboration with the Regional Museum of Morelia. The collection of drawings reflects the impact of migration on the lives of families and their communities.

During May 11 and 12, plenary roundtables focused on the reasons for migration, which included poverty and globalization among others. The talks also took an in-depth look at the role played by transnational migrant organizations in stimulating local development initiatives in communities of origin. Workshops on this day touched on migration reform, social organization and integration processes, migrant investments in home communities, and civic participation.

The summit came to an end on Sunday, May 13, with a plenary roundtable entitled "Organized Migrant Communities as an Expression of a New Transnational Civil Society: Perspectives toward a Shared Hemispheric Agenda," a review of project proposals, and a reflection on the work ahead of us.

During the last plenary session, the Summit's convening organizations presented a joint declaration addressing the concerns and conclusions shared by all participants.

The organizing committee declaration stated:

1. The dominant model of economic globalization under which we have lived for the last quarter of a century has failed to improve community well-being and has resulted in patterns of cultural, social, political, and economic exclusion. We must urgently seek alternatives. The structural patterns of poverty and unequal wealth distribution are compounded by civil conflicts and violence, as well as natural disasters that are beginning to occur with increasing frequency. The confluence of these factors is the root cause of the large migration flows currently experienced in Latin America and around the world. Additionally, the growth of economic inequality in countries of destination has become yet another weapon against migrant communities. Anti-immigrant political forces find it convenient to blame foreigners for the ills of globalization.
2. The lives of migrants are being systematically threatened by constant efforts to strip us of our humanity. There has been an increase in anti-immigrant rhetoric and efforts to adopt laws that criminalize the presence of immigrants or seek to build walls on borders in order to keep us out. These are based on the premise that immigrants are a threat to society, which leads us to conclude that immigrant organizations must employ all



their strength and creativity in a struggle for the recognition of migrants' inalienable, internationally recognized human rights.

3. As a consequence of the obsolete and unfair migration laws that are currently in place in countries of origin, transit, and destination, migration has resulted in multiple negative social impacts, which include the involuntary fragmentation of the family unit and its consequences. Migrants are also highly vulnerable to attacks and even violent death, sometimes at the very hands of those in charge of public or border security. Regrettably, there is an enormous lack of public response and policies that address these challenges.
4. Channeling the potential for transnational organization that migrant communities, in all their diverse expressions, have to offer, must be our highest priority—and one that we work on constantly. Only by increasing our organizational capacity and working together will we be able to influence the decision-making processes that affect our lives. Our networks must deepen and make creative use of alliances, so that we can continue to advance our shared interests in an ever-more effective manner.

NEXT STEPS

Before the First Summit was finished, participants began to talk about the

need to hold a second one. Members of the organizing committee agreed it would be best to wait at least two or three years so that we could follow up on some of the agreements and projects proposed in the workshops. The organizing committee also agreed to continue to function as a coordinating body, and the organizations that comprise it will provide follow-up for some of the issues presented in this meeting.

These include some urgent matters that must be addressed before a Second Summit can be held:

1. *Strengthening of Migrant Organizations.* A substantial part of the tasks considered during the First Summit demand greater access to public opinion in countries of origin, transit, and destination. Only then can we begin to systemically dispel erroneous myths regarding migrants and the impacts of migration.
2. *Construction of Alliances.* Besides increasing the organizational capacity of migrant associations, we must urgently strengthen our ties with the diverse political, economic, and social sectors affected by the migration phenomenon. This is particularly important in receiving societies, since we must obtain their support and solidarity.
3. *Translational and International Advocacy.* We need to press for changes in public policy that will enable the migration phenomenon to support equitable and sustainable human and economic development in societies of origin, transit, and



destination. These policy changes should be implemented at all levels and branches of national governments affected by migration, as well as international and multilateral political and financial institutions. The organizing committee will seek to exercise more influence in these areas and the decision-making process around public policy related to migration and development.

With the celebration of this Summit, an international network of organized Latin American migrants has written a new page in history. For the first time, migrants themselves put together their own agenda and established a shared space discussing and refining their priorities. This first Summit has strengthened understanding and collective commitment regarding the creation of global spaces for the interaction between all migrant communities. The First Latin American Migrant Summit has made an important contribution to the practical definition of global citizenship, an issue that applies to all migrant communities, and consequently, to all communities around the world.

ANNEX 1:
MAIN ISSUES AND PROPOSALS ADDRESSED
DURING THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN
MIGRANT SUMMIT
MORELIA, MICHOACÁN—MAY 2007

(This summary was prepared based on the notes from the plenary and

workshop sessions. It does not represent a consensus on these issues. Rather, it reflects the diversity of opinion and perspective of the organizations and individuals who shared their ideas and aspirations in Morelia. Each workshop was asked to present recommendations for further action. It is those recommendations that are presented here, in summary form. In some cases, participants identified clear paths to shared action. In others, the route was not so obvious, or the ideas were more heterogenous. This summary attempts to capture and respect a broad range of opinions and does not necessarily reflect the perspectives of the organizing committee.

Human Rights

CONTEXT

The subject of migrants' human rights was a major topic during the First Latin American Migrant Summit. Generally speaking, participants thought it necessary to address this issue because human rights are universal and inalienable and should apply to all human beings regardless of borders, conditions, sex, country of origin, race, religion, etc. These rights should include the right of individuals to not emigrate and abandon home and family, the right of children to live with their parents, and the right to migrate.

States are responsible for protecting, respecting and upholding



these rights. They must also ensure the dignity of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees who enter their territory; protect the labor rights and social guarantees of all workers; respect cultural diversity, and uphold non-discriminatory practices. Migrants in border areas may be particularly vulnerable to human rights violations.

Another topic was the right to peace, which includes an improvement in the living conditions, opportunities for development, and security of migrant citizens, as well as those of their communities and families. Peace is born out of social justice and equality.

PROPOSALS

- Create a Human Rights Commission focused strictly on borders.
- Demand that the Mexican government put an end to the human rights violations that take place inside the country, especially in terms of the criminalization of immigrants.
- Instruct community leaders on the subjects of constitutional, human, and international rights, as well as their accompanying tools.
- Establish cooperation networks among unions, NGOs, migrant rights organizations, and other like-minded groups in support of migrants' rights.
- Create active networks that fight social injustice and human rights violations.
- Fight against the criminalization of people who assist migrants in any given country.

- Promote and expand refugee programs throughout the continent.
- Demand that governments recognize human rights as a fundamental principle in the creation of migration policies in the Americas.

Labor Rights

CONTEXT

Labor rights are often violated and immigrant workers are likely to be deprived of medical coverage, fair wages, proper working conditions, etc. Cooperation between different groups such as unions, NGOs and migrant rights organizations is needed to be able to effectively influence the creation of immigrants' rights policies. One cannot deal with labor migration without addressing the substantial salary gap that exists between developing and developed countries. The struggle for the preservation of labor rights needs to take place on both sides of the border and requires an international and/or global approach.

PROPOSALS

- Instruct migrants on the subject of labor rights through informational workshops and preventive training provided by clubs and federations.
- Use more legal tools to protect labor rights on an international level. We must approach economic



changes from an international and global perspective and think of workers on both sides of the border.

- Create multinational alliances for the defense of the human and labor rights of migrant workers.
- The only unions that can gain influence in a global world are those who share the community's values. We must remember that the history of unions in the United States was shaped by Irish, Italian, Polish and other immigrants and by the experiences of African Americans who were brought to the United States against their will as slaves. We must value and learn from their experiences and apply this knowledge to our own struggles.
- The labor movement must embrace Latino and groups of immigrants. We must focus on ways to develop this inclusive leadership.
- We must put an end to intermediaries and migrant recruiters, since this increases the costs and risks for migrants themselves.
- Address the delayed payments owed by the U.S. government to the many migrants who worked in the country as *braceros*.

transformation and go hand in hand with time and migration dynamics.

Many immigrants are faced with the problem of transmitting their original culture to subsequent generations. Some of the factors we need to take in to account are the attitudes of second-generation immigrants, who might see themselves as binational or think they belong “neither here nor there”; the importance of immigrant parents teaching their children the culture and history of their country of origin, and the problems between these two generations, who belong to different worlds. Inter-generational dialogue is fundamental to the preservation of cultural values from the country of origin and integrating the best aspects of the receiving country.

In countries like the United States, immigration is perceived as a cultural shock and the media tend to portray it in a limited and often negative manner. The direct participation of migrants in cultural production (e.g., the films shown during the Summit) is an efficient way of addressing these issues from an artistic and cultural point of view.

PROPOSALS

Culture, Media and Migration

CONTEXT

Culture and identity play an important role in the life of migrants and their children. Culture and identity are not a fixed concept. Rather, they are subject to flux and

- The implementation of multicultural education programs in the schools of receiving countries.
- Increased access to instruction in the language of receiving countries so that migrant populations can be integrated on all levels spanning from basic literacy to professional development.



- The development of educational and informative campaigns that provide receiving societies with insight about migrants.
- Changing public opinion through the media. This strategy must involve immigrant communities and their contributions and needs instead of merely displaying a defensive attitude against negative messages.
- Incorporating and recognizing the spirituality inherent in our continent's founding cultures.
- Make use of all available media venues (television, the press, radio, and the Internet) to gain more international influence.
- Promote mechanisms of cultural transmission. Highlight the importance of cultures of origin in receiving countries and the transmission of the mother tongue. Promote cultural exchange among young immigrant children.
- Promote a positive view of biculturalism: the advantages of understanding two or more languages, two or more ways of thinking. It is very important that we present diversity in a positive light.
- Ensure that governments in countries origin and destination work at strengthening intercultural education programs.

Local Development and Development Policies

CONTEXT

Local development is characterized by the following features: 1) it is

multidimensional: while the economic aspect is the most important, it is by no means the only one; 2) it involves four fundamental actors: local governments, state governments, an organized civil society, and the private sector. It is important to develop productive projects that can guarantee employment and income sources in communities of origin. The participation of all actors involved in the local development process is crucial: migrants, communities, federal, state and local governments, and businesses.

Summit participants were not always in agreement regarding the role of governments in local development. Although most participants urged governments to partner more closely with migrants on local development initiatives, several participants commented that while remittances do contribute to local development they should not absolve national governments of their responsibility. At one workshop, participants argued that it is not fair that migrants should invest in infrastructure such as running water, plumbing, electricity, and other services, which should be provided by the government.

An example of development initiatives funded by migrant contributions are the federations and clubs (such as those involving Zacatecan and Michoacano migrants) that are undertaking projects under Mexico's Three for One program, which also involves federal, state, and local funds. In some cases, private



companies have added their contributions in a Four for One setup.

PROPOSALS

- Educate migrants and communities of origin in regards to financial issues.
- Channel the use of remittances toward the creation of employment and productive projects. At the same time, we should provide local actors and migrants with more opportunities, so that they can propel development in their communities and diversify the uses of remittances.
- Create a culture based on savings and promote investment. Members of migrant families must have access to banking services and enter the formal financial market.
- Demand that governments invest in infrastructure, stimulate employment, and implement more active policies to defend migrant's rights.
- Find efficient ways of preventing the money loss incurred by binational remittance transfers.

Remittances

CONTEXT

Overall, the issue of remittances generated some of the most vibrant debate at the Summit. Remittances clearly play an important role in many communities in Latin America, but there is little consensus on

whether remittances are contributing to long-term, sustainable development. Participants pointed out that, in some cases, remittances could be a proximate cause of migration (if, for example, the funds sent home are used to finance the border crossing). Migrant organizations should take a stronger role in educating their members on how remittances could have a more positive impact on local development. Some participants urged investments in housing as a way of turning remittances into patrimony.

Participants emphasized that remittances are private money. They should not absolve countries of origin of their responsibility in the promotion of development, even if they do play an important role in local development. At the same time, they cannot be expected to play the same role a proper, state-implemented rural policy should.

Several participants argued that the role of remitters is constrained by policies that are set by agencies and governments without the migrant community's participation. These larger development policies may limit the beneficial effects of remittances and reinforce their use in consumption. In addition, several participants expressed dissatisfaction with the current options for remitters for sending funds home. Remittance-sending companies may have little interest in community development or simply not see this as a legitimate role they need to play. Several participants expressed frustration with remittance companies that



charge expensive rates and lack transparency. Other financial institutions such as banks could play a more positive role, but they also have a vested interest in capturing remittance flows.

Some argued that recent years have seen improvements. Federal transparency laws and access to public governmental information have made it easier for remitters and receivers to get the information on rates and policies. Others argued that there is still a long way to go in terms of transparency and an overall policy framework for remittances. Policies that have been implemented in Europe to “control” remittance flow have forced many remitters back into informal challenges.

The gap between those who receive remittances and those who do not is rapidly increasing in Latin American countries. This has and will continue to have significant impact on inequality in migrant-sending countries and cannot be ignored by migrant organizations who are interested in promoting sustainable, balanced development.

- Develop new financial products that respond to transnational necessities.
- Find ways of reducing international transfer costs.
- Reject the use of remittances as tools that control women and ensure their dependency.
- Encourage local and state governments to visit remittance-sending communities and inform them of the uses being given to their contributions.

Health

CONTEXT

The workshop on health concluded with a strong message in favor of promoting physical and mental health among migrant communities. Factors such as cultural shock and family separation result in emotional stress that can lead to depression and anxiety, as well as apathy and fear of seeking psychological or medical help. Migrant communities should have access to health services as well as relevant information and education.

PROPOSALS

- Channel the use of remittances toward the creation of employment and productive projects.
- Redefine public policies in a context of international cooperation that reviews strategies such as microcredits.
- Reaffirm that the right to health is universal.
- Include the topic of physical and mental health in policies and meetings regarding migration. Health should be the foundation for fit migrant communities. This also involves a variety of social, economic, cultural, and other



aspects, especially in relation to the growing issue of drugs.

- Work with social organizations and the media to inform migrant communities of issues that include the use of traditional medicine in combination with Western medicine, the use of medication and occupational therapy, AIDS, and sexual responsibility. We should also provide support for migrant families so they can discuss these issues with their children.
- Create a national physical and mental awareness day.
- Demand that receiving countries ratify and implement the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
- Fight instances of pollution that affect the health of migrant workers.
- Promote ecotourism, biotechnology, and environmental programs that seek to avoid pollution and soil degradation related to chemical insecticides, thus preventing health problems and improving living standards.
- Encourage legislators to address and revise health issues.

Civic Organization and Participation

CONTEXT

Participants strongly endorsed the need for engaging migrant-led organizations in the civic life of sending and receiving countries.

Migrant organizations are transnational entities that must fight for their right in places of origin as well as destination. As many of the participants at the summit pointed out, the right to vote and its enactment are fundamental. On the other hand, getting people involved in civic action poses a challenge.

The strategies employed by clubs and federations vary depending on the association. They seek to gain political influence through contact with groups in power (such as political leaders and elected officials), the creation of political action committees (PACS), forums, projects with countries of origin, marches, and events that seek immigration reform.

Dual citizenship or “binationality,” on the other hand, posits questions regarding the definitions of state, flexible citizenship, deterritorialization, transnational communities, migration, borders, new forms of political membership, sovereignty, loyalty, patriotism, and human rights.

PROPOSALS

- Instruct migrant leaders in subjects such as international law, multi-lateral institutions, and the workings of the political systems in countries of origin and destination.
- Educate migrant communities on the importance of social, political and economic involvement in countries of origin and destination.



- In order to change the situation, family members who remain in the country of origin must also become organized and receive instruction: the purpose is to strengthen their ties to members who are living abroad and, eventually, make change possible.
- Immigrants should construct and maintain a social movement. They should also institutionalize immigrant organizations that have international recognition. Globalization processes require plans and strategies that take migrant communities into account, and our aim is to have the communities themselves jointly promote shared strategies and actions.
- As no action can be effective without proper infrastructure, we need to create political, social, and economic organizations.
- Inform societies about the contributions and value of immigration and put an end to (or at least diminish) anti-immigrant rhetoric.
- Share experiences: learn from the organizational models and efforts of migrant communities across the world and promote strategies that allow them to create strong networks. At the same time, it is important that each group has a strong organizational foundation (e.g., Mexicans in Chicago).
- Continue to pursue the right to vote abroad.
- Explore new citizenship alternatives and, specifically, promote dual citizenship.
- Ensure that the immigration reform in the United States focuses on the topic of families.
- Incorporate the migrant movement to other progressive social struggles such as the fight for gender equality, indigenous rights, and others.
- Strive for an autonomous use of resources that can lead to independent decisions, long-term sustainable activities, and avoid conflict and contradictions.
- Make joint contributions to the agendas of international bodies.

Gender Issues and Female Leadership

CONTEXT

A vibrant set of workshops on gender issues produced a shared set of recommendations which is reproduced here. Participants pointed out that female migration is on the rise and we must analyze the reasons for this. We must also create support networks for migrant women (self-help groups, training, and education) and work for the integration and increased participation of women in countries of destination.

The roles of men and women have changed throughout history. Nowadays there is a struggle for gender equality and women's increased participation in civic life in general. Women's independence has increased, and so have their responsibilities.

PROPOSALS

- Increase the active participation of women in migrant networks. Form an International Network of



Migrant Women that does not invalidate existing networks and organizations, support women's migrant associations, and promote economic development and political participation.

- Approach migrant women's work from a transnational viewpoint. Highlight and assert their economic contributions while fighting against occupational segregation, and ensure their labor rights are upheld across the various sectors of the economy.
- Inform the public about migrant women's contributions to the social, economic, cultural, and political processes of nations.
- Strive for gender equality in transnational organizations.
- Enable structural changes by highlighting the role played by gender on all levels of the migrant experience. Review migration laws and assert a gender-conscious approach.
- Study instances of migration driven by gender issues, violence against women, intra-family violence, cultural sexually discriminatory practices, and sexual repression. Create youth-oriented programs that deal with gender-based violence by focusing on the nature of relationships. Promote educational projects that promote gender equality and decry gender-based violence.
- Put an end to traffic involving women and children and the violation of their human rights. Uphold the United Nations protocol regarding the criminalization of these transnational activities, particularly in regards to forced female prostitution.

- Reject the use of remittances as tools that control women and ensure their dependency.
- In regards to legal information, we must facilitate all migrants' access to the documents required in legal procedures. In particular, we should focus on women and ensure their safety in sending, transit and receiving countries.
- Approach the subject of women's migration from a family-based perspective that focuses on the elderly and the young. Emphasize the need for equality through youth-oriented educational campaigns.
- Facilitate dialogue between women of different social and economic strata; ensure the inclusion and participation of those in more precarious situations and, therefore, less likely to be heard.
- Create awareness and educational campaigns that portray gender as a daily reality shared by both women and men, an issue that affects society in its entirety.

Youth Leadership

CONTEXT

Young people perceive the need to join efforts, share both positive and negative experiences, and undertake youth-oriented and youth-designed projects. We must encourage help and support youth networks in order to prevent violence instead of repressing it. Insofar as the young and migration are concerned, we must all work for the common good.



There is a tendency to portray young people as criminals. The Summit's workshops took into consideration some of the aspects that characterize the daily realities of young migrants: persecution, violence, exclusion, lack of access to sports and other training programs and facilities, lack of opportunities and orientation. All of these can result in a lack of interest and direction, leading to a final disconnection from the social system. They also reinforce the lack of communication between young people and adults, young people and the government, and even between the young themselves.

Young people are usually disconnected from the formal adult world, governments pay little attention to them, and publicity conditions their conduct. Adults do not work in tandem with the youth. Furthermore, delinquency is not the consequence of migration: it is the result of violence, an unfair system, and state policies.

PROPOSALS

- Come up with strategies that seek change and incorporate young people, giving them power and responsibility. Young people are active beings with rights and obligations: it is important that we work along them rather than in front of them.
- Encourage young people to cultivate a personal vision of their own lives instead of creating stereotypes.
- Approach the issue of gangs from a community-based organizational

perspective: the best way to solve it is to prevent rather than repress.

- Instigate immigration reform law so that people charged with felonies are still able to obtain legal status.
- Encourage cultural transmission and stress the importance of preserving the original culture and the parents' mother tongue(s).
- Promote and strengthen cultural exchange, especially among immigrant children and youths.
- Create orientation programs in receiving countries so as to facilitate the social and educational integration of young immigrants.
- Develop workshops that address the experiences of young migrants in different parts of the world (Europe, the United States, and Latin America) as well as the promotion of regional youth gatherings.

Public Policies and Legislation

CONTEXT

Several legislative issues were addressed, though the case of the United States, its Mexican border, and the current immigration policies (or lack thereof) implemented by both countries received particular attention. Some of the issues discussed were: the need to promote dialogue with other governments; fight adverse immigration reform proposals in the United States; implement coordinated governmental programs to combat human traffic, insecurity, and violence along the border; assert the human rights of migrants (particularly those



who belong to vulnerable groups) and depenalize undocumented migration; modify Mexico's General Population Law (*Ley General de Población*) so that it recognizes the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

At the same time, the participants agreed that an improper handling of the migration problem can result in drug trafficking, organized crime, human traffic, prostitution, pederasty, and child pornography among other things. The Latin American community in the United States has no voice regarding this nation's foreign policy toward Latin America. This must change and the issue of migration must be restored to its human dimension, this time through the voices of migrants.

PROPOSALS

- Promote fair immigration laws and reforms that recognize the contributions of migrants to society, both in countries of origin and destination.
- Change current laws that criminalize immigrants.
- Reinforce the Network of Latin American Legislators in Favor of Migration (*Red de Legisladores Latinoamericanos por la Migración*) by providing legislators with assembly spaces during the Morelia Summit and an upcoming meeting in Los Angeles.
- Denounce the anti-immigrant legislative efforts taking place in the United States in a joint Declaration addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General and signed by Latin American and other migrant groups in that country. Given the symbolic relevance of legislative efforts, we should also do the same in regards to the European Union.
- Reject all types of walls: physical, intellectual, and ideological. These oppose social integration and limit and obstruct the participation of migrants in civil society.
- Demand that the United States put a stop to the militarization of the border. Likewise, demand that Mexico put a stop to the militarization of the Guatemala border.
- Urgently address the dismantling of migrant traffic networks.
- Construct an international public policy network run for and by migrants with the goal of developing transnational, migrant-oriented policy proposals.
- Promote development initiatives in countries of origin to avoid migration.
- Help migrant organizations establish coordinated programs with consulates in order to address short, medium- and long-term issues.
- Ratify and sign international treaties and agreements regarding the rights of workers, children, women, and migrants.
- Demand that states respect public policies and legislation regarding migration and take an integral approach to the migration phenomenon: they must take basic services such as health and education into account, instead of focusing exclusively on the economic aspects.

