

PUBLIC STATEMENT

ACT ALLIANCE ON THE PHENOMENON OF MIGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

March 2023

ACT Alliance's global Migration and Displacement program, the national and regional forums of the Alliance in Latin America and the Caribbean and partner organizations, gathered in the meeting "Towards a Joint Action: Migration and Displacement in Latin America and the Caribbean", held in the city of Bogotá in February 2023, express:

We reaffirm our actions based on faith and on respecting the rights of people, with the firm purpose of working ecumenically and interreligiously to help and protect people on the move throughout our region.

We promote the strengthening of an active and dynamic alliance that articulates efforts and generates synergies to improve our response, intervention and incidence capacities based on respect and promotion of human rights and dignity for all people on the move.

We recognize that human mobility is a human right and an historical, multi-causal, and intersectional reality linked to structural inequalities in our region, poverty, forced displacement, gender inequality, climate change, violence perpetrated by criminal organizations, and some states that must be approached from a rights perspective.

We identified a series of urgent issues for our region that require coordinated strategies and articulation of efforts to effectively influence relevant actors and call on the States to assume their responsibility for the protection and guarantee of the human rights of people on the move. In this sense, we call for compliance with the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

We agreed on the need to strengthen our individual and collective capacities and define the common political and programmatic guidelines that will guide our work.

We agreed on a roadmap to follow to put our joint work into motion, with a view to going further and obtaining better results for the population on the move in the region that we seek to accompany.

As religious actors and faith-based organizations, we reaffirm our willingness to act as an alliance in a regional cooperation framework with common strategies for the accompaniment, protection, and promotion of the rights of displaced persons, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We express our deep concern about the growing situations of violence and crises in the region and about the restrictive measures regarding the rights of people in situations of human mobility. We are particularly concerned by the recent proposal to change the asylum system in the United States, which represents a significant setback in terms of public policy and implies a lack of protection for people transiting the Central America-Mexico corridor via dangerous routes in total vulnerability.

We welcome the expressions of the States of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Mexico to offer protection to Nicaraguans deprived of their nationality, and at the same time we urge the States of the region to refrain from taking measures of this nature. We express our solidarity with those who see their rights violated every day and suffer from violence, xenophobia, racism, and discrimination, and we commit ourselves to upholding our mission of working together for justice, peace, and equal opportunities.

Aware that this is a first step, we are committed to strengthening the ACT Alliance for Latin America and the Caribbean by amplifying the voices of people on the move and our members, developing our strengths, and advancing towards the change we want to see in the world.