



New York, July 24-26, 2017

Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and the transferability of benefits accrued.

Statement of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas -TUCA/CSA; Central American United Trade Union Council - CSU; Central American Regional Inter-Union Committee for the Defense of the Migrant Workers Rights– CI-Regional; Trade Union Council for Technical Assistance - COSATE.

The governance of labor migration requires an integrated, comprehensive and multidimensional approach that, considers the linked economic, political, social and cultural aspects, and recognizes the potential negative impact of economic globalization allowing new and old forms of worker exploitation. First and foremost, however, governments must recognize that normative rights – in particular worker rights for all workers regardless of their immigration status – must be the overarching framework for all labor migration policies.

What is at stake is the constellation linking democracy, migration and human rights, as well as the degree of inclusion and equal access to the various dimensions of individual rights. In migration policy, as in no other field of state action, a unique relationship is articulated between the State and migrants, within the labor rights safeguards of the rule of law which, in turn, is based on equal access to rights for the inhabitants of a territory.

The trade union sector recognizes in the *Trade Union Confederation of the Americas' (TUCA/CSA) Development Platform of the Americas* the double contribution to the economic, social and cultural development of migrants in both the origin and destination country.

More than a monetary transfer.

With regard to migrants' contributions, remittances represent an important boost to the economies in most countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and from the macroeconomic point of view, their amounts are the most well-known and profusely prominent feature in past few years: according to national accounts, more than US \$ 20 billion is paid annually to the region (ECLAC data), a figure higher than that received for many export commodities, and this is likely an underestimate due to the difficulties in measuring remittances.

It is difficult to evaluate the impact of remittances if we consider the scarcity of initiatives between migrants' origin and destination countries to facilitate the flow of remittances, as well as the evident vulnerability of migrants and the myriad risks they face in their destination societies. When we talk about costs, we do not just think about transfers and exchange rates, which represent another of the most debated aspects of remittances. Rather, we are interested in the social costs that migrants assume, as families or individuals, in order to send part of their money - salaries or savings - home and, more generally, the human capital costs of migration. The focus on remittances as the solution to sustainable development often ignores the social costs to families of separation, exploitation, and unsafe migration. We also must focus on the economic costs that diminish the potential of remittances such as exorbitant recruitment fees or costs to get assistance to migrate, wage theft, underpayment of wages, high costs of remitting, etc. Finally, in discussing the contributions of migrants to sustainable development we must address the failure of governments to develop strategic policies to create decent work in origin communities allowing migration to be a choice and not an economic compulsion.

Rights Portability.



**COMITÉ INTERSINDICAL REGIONAL POR LA DEFENSA DE LOS
DERECHOS DE LAS PERSONAS TRABAJADORES MIGRANTES
CI-REGIONAL**

ciregional15@gmail.com / <http://portalinet.org/migraciones-laborales/>

It is necessary to create inclusive labor markets in origin, transit, and destination countries, with measures to protect and ensure decent work, as a principle of social, economic and cultural integration as well as equal treatment. The portability of benefits represents a challenge for states, one of the greatest deficiencies in the field of recognition of rights. Access to social protection for migrant workers and their families is an obligation for states. The creation of laws that establish conditions of equality between national and migrant workers that promote inclusion and favors the protection of this population requires multilateral and / or bilateral social security mechanisms to ensure the transferability of migrants' rights and benefits.

A convergence of state public policies and institutional cooperation of the Education, Health, Social Security and Housing Ministries should be promoted. In addition, it is essential to strengthen campaigns for the ratification and effective implementation of International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions 97 and 143, Recommendations 86 and 151, as well as other relevant Conventions. Multilateral social dialogue must have as one of its objectives to guarantee people's and communities' right to development, the reduction of asymmetries between countries, as well as the right to work and freedom of association as an expression of a set of rights.

Labor Migration in Irregular Condition.

The phenomenon of irregular migration, a situation garnering more attention in origin countries, is linked directly to the economic growth policies that fail to reach most workers and to the lack of development policies at home.

The poorest and most vulnerable sectors of the population, such as forced migrants, men and women, who have no other choice but to move; unprotected, willing to accept any work to survive. It is they who have been denied the right to not migrate.

Migration in irregular conditions exacerbates the vulnerability of workers to exploitation by unscrupulous employers who benefit from this condition. It is no secret that poor development conditions and lack of job opportunities in origin countries are the trigger for this type of migration, from which some sectors in destination countries take advantage to have greater profits at the expense of workers who they see as cheap labor. Such irregular migration undermines confidence in the capacity of governments to effectively manage labor migration, creating negative scenarios in the population.

Given the growth of irregular migration, it is essential to address the conditions that foster this phenomenon from origin countries. Many dependent economies lack productive development policies that generate the quantity and quality of jobs that are required for decent work and livelihoods that sustain families.

On the other hand, the sharing of promising practices for the reduction of irregular migration, within a framework of respect for human rights, should be implemented where possible. Negotiated policy agreements and social dialogue should be pursued to deal comprehensively with the situation of irregular migration. Pathways to regularity must be developed as a first priority; regular migration programs that are not exploitative temporary migration programs.

The trade union movement represented in the entities listed at the beginning of this document, express our commitment to social dialogue in favor of the struggle for the rights of migrant workers and our rejection of all forms of exploitation of working people.

Jonatan Monge Loría, Chief coordinator CI-Regional