Regional Seminar

Globalization and International Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean: Trends and Prospects for the 21st Century

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Migration Studies Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (REMIALC)

University of Chile

MOST
Management of Social Transformations
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1 Introduction

Much migration in Latin America is intra-regional, with the United States being the predominant destination outside the region. Historically, political determinants have been important in influencing migration flows in this region, with dictatorships and political violence generating flows of refugees. Most of these flows have now subsided, as political conditions are more stable, and there have been several mass return movements. Economic factors, such as the liberalisation of trade, the strengthening of international economic agreements, and the persistence of economic inequalities between countries in the region, are now attracting more attention.

The globalisation of capital and trade, and the emergence of regional economic groups are likely to have an impact on international migration throughout the world, although it is not yet clear exactly what this impact will be, and the relationship is unlikely to be a simple one. In Latin America, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Treaty for the Construction of a Common Market between the Republic of Argentina, the Federal Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay (MERCOSUR) set the stage for regional economic integration, in the first case between Mexico, the US and Canada, and in the second between four countries of the Southern Cone.

Against this background, and in view of the need to investigate trends and prospects in international migration patterns and policy needs in the region, the foundations for the Network on Migration Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean (REMIALC) were laid during a UNESCO-MOST regional seminar held in Santiago, Chile (27-29 October 1998), which had been organised in collaboration with the Centre for Public Policy Analysis (CAPP), University of Chile. More than 30 migration experts and researchers
representing national, international and non-governmental organisations in the region participated in the seminar.

This report presents an overview of the discussions which took place during this seminar, concentrating on the relationship between migration and development, particularly sustainable development; the effects of globalisation, especially on labour markets; migration and human rights; migration legislation and policy needs.
The meeting, organized by UNESCO-MOST in collaboration with the Centre for Public Policy Analysis (CAPP), University of Chile, was opened by Professor Raúl Urzúa, Director of CAPP, followed by a welcome by Lorenzo Agar, Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

In her introductory remarks, Serim Timur, Head of the Population and Migration Unit, UNESCO, Paris, mentioned that the seminar was particularly timely as it followed the recent United Nations Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development, which took place in The Hague (July 1999). International migration is high on the global agenda. Some of the studies presented in the UN Symposium indicated that globalization of capital movements and trade and the emergence of regional economic co-operation groups may have an impact on international migration. This situation highlights the need for a solid analytical framework and relevant research in order to improve the understanding of these relationships, and to inform policy.

This seminar is organized as part of the activities of the Management and Social Transformations (MOST) programme, within UNESCO’s Social and Human Sciences Sector. This programme was established in 1994, to promote policy relevant research on social transformations and issues of global importance, including among them international migration.

As international population mobility is a key factor in current social transformations throughout the world, UNESCO is undertaking important regional migration networking activities. These networks will constitute 'centres of expertise' to provide information, high quality research, and advisory services for policy makers on the role of migration and ethno-cultural diversity, in a large number of countries in major regions.

The Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN) was established in 1995 with the collaboration of experts and scholars from 11 countries of the region to produce research relevant to public policy and to advance education in migration and ethnicity issues.
The Network on Migration Research in Africa (NOMRA), launched in June 1998, will focus on the complex causes of population movements and consequences of migration in sub-Saharan Africa, especially those related to poverty and migration as a survival strategy.

The Central and Eastern European Network on Migration Research (CEENOM) was established in September 1998, and will look at the causes and effects of changing trends in migration in the economies in transition, with a view to providing information for the formulation of new social policies in the region.

The present UNESCO-MOST Regional Seminar is held to review the emerging trends and major issues in international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean and to discuss the possibility of establishing a regional network on migration studies.
3.1 International Migration, Globalisation and Regional Integration Agreements in Latin America and the Caribbean

3.1.1 Migration, regional integration and job market segmentation: the case of Argentina

Alicia Maguid, INDEC, Argentina

The links between globalisation, integration and migration with respect to sub-regional integration in Latin America have yet to be established. The development models can help to explain population flows in the context of historical links between origin and destination regions. However, little is known about the repercussions of increased global and regional interaction and interdependence—at the macroeconomic level—on the international population mobility. The heterogeneity between and within countries renders the understanding of these repercussions even more difficult. Labour markets in the region have different dynamics and degrees of segmentation and economies have suffered upheavals such as a fall in the demand for labour, increased unemployment and the deterioration of work conditions.

Today, the contribution of net migration to population growth in the Southern Cone is no longer significant, with the exceptions of Chile and Paraguay where the proportion of migrants has remained stable. This is due to the return migration that occurred following the establishment of democratic regimes. The percentage of the population born outside the country does not exceed 5% of the total population in either country. In Argentina, Paraguayans and Chileans predominate amongst immigrants (32% and 28% respectively); fol-
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dowed by Bolivians and Uruguayans (17% and 18%); and Brazilians (7%). In Brazil these nationalities are more equally distributed, all representing roughly 20% of immigrants. Argentinians predominate in Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay; in Paraguay, two thirds of the immigrant population comes from Brazil.

Forty five per cent of contemporary emigration from the Southern Cone is intraregional. As the centre of attraction of migratory flows in the Southern Cone, Argentina has the highest percentage of extraregional migration. Venezuela is the dominant Latin American receiving country, especially of Argentinians and Chileans. The largest outflows from the Southern Cone are to the United States.

International migration in Argentina has been marked by changes in settlement patterns throughout this century. Until the 1960s population movements occurred mainly between the border regions of neighbouring countries sharing similar economic, social and cultural traits. Subsequent flows were directed toward the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area, the primary centre for the migratory subsystem in the Southern Cone of Latin America. The proportion of immigrants from border regions who headed toward the Metropolitan Area increased from 25% to 47% between 1960 and 1991. These flows occurred simultaneously with internal migration. At the same time, a flow of professionals, technical and qualified workers toward the United States and Canada, and to a lesser extent to Europe, began.

The reduced number of foreign-born individuals among the resident population reflects the decrease of population flows into Argentina. Border migration has remained practically stable. The economic and political situation in the countries of origin represent expulsion factors. The percentage of immigrants who migrate for these reasons tends to decrease once the political situation in their country of origin becomes stable.

The process of metropolization of the migratory system and in particular the concentration of population, labour force and capital in the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area means it can be considered as a global city. One third of the country’s population, 35% of the economically active population and 47% of industrial employment are located there. It is also the centre for banking, trade and investment. In 1991, 47% of migrants from border areas were concentrated in the Metropolitan Area, while the rest were mainly in the border provinces.

Immigration from neighbouring countries shows an upward trend. This is related to a growth of the informal sector, which generated a significant demand for labour until at least 1991. Up to the early 1980s, a pattern of selective insertion of migrants from border regions in the construction industry and in domestic service prevailed. The taking up by migrants of jobs not filled by the native population was a result of the low pay and precarious working conditions
in those jobs. Since 1991, a programme to improve these conditions that creates a more stable climate for employment has been implemented. This programme had a positive impact only until 1992. Since then, unemployment has increased, especially in the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area, accompanied by an increase in labour supply, especially of women and elderly people, and a decrease in the employment rate. This situation became more critical between 1993 and 1996, during the creation and institutional development of MERCOSUR.

Comments

It became clear in the ensuing discussion that several critical issues remained and that future research was needed:

- to quantify the intra-regional migration flows to Argentina, particularly to its border regions, in order to obtain a more accurate picture of the migration situation
- to look at the impact of migrant networks and political and economic conditions in sending countries on future migration flows
- to examine the development of labour markets, looking particularly at whether migrants' jobs remain segmented from the jobs of native Argentinians, or whether they become directly competitive
- to analyse the impact of MERCOSUR and the integration process on regional migration patterns.
3.1.2 *The globalisation process and NAFTA: effects on international migration*

Alejandro Canales, Universidad of Guadalajara, Mexico

International migration is a factor of increasing concern in politics and in academic debates. In this framework, migration from Mexico to the United States constitutes a paradigmatic case, due to its history, the magnitude of the population involved, the varying types of migration, and the significant progress in economic integration resulting from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Since the initiation of NAFTA in 1994, there has been an ongoing debate on its probable implications for the dynamics and composition of Mexico-US migration. On the one hand, there are those who argue that NAFTA will reduce migration due to the modernisation of Mexico’s processes of production and the structure of its labour markets. On the other hand, some claim that NAFTA’s success is in fact based on the structural inequalities which exist between the two countries, and therefore commercial integration will result in greater pressure to migrate. More foreign investment in Mexico will increase employment but not salary levels. On the contrary, it will generate non-regulated, flexible employment, resulting in insecure employment conditions and promoting migration to the US. It is worth noting that both arguments are based on the underlying assumption that the migration of Mexicans to the US is undesirable.

An alternative perspective suggests that NAFTA’s impact on migration has been over-estimated by both sides of the debate for two main reasons:

- NAFTA does not imply a fundamental change in the relationship between the two countries.
- A less formal integration has already taken place between the labour markets of the two countries in the last few decades and has produced irreversible changes in the patterns of movement.

Thus the mobility of the work force in both countries depends not so much on international integration of the type embodied by NAFTA, as on the articulation and integration of the work processes and labour markets in each economy. The restructuring of production and the flexibilisation of labour are highlighted as key factors in the relationship between the two nations. In the US they have resulted in an increasing polarisation and segmentation of the job market, in turn fostering immigration in response to employment opportunities. The same processes in Mexico have reinforced the impoverishment of workers and the insecurity of their jobs, again maintaining the impetus for migration.
3.1.3 Economic integration, the job market and international migration: the case of MERCOSUR

Neide Patarra, Nucleo de Estudos de População, Brazil

The commercial agreement of MERCOSUR includes several countries sharing common geographic and cultural elements but, at the same time, with deep social and economic differences. One of the most significant differences, inherited from the period of European colonization, is territorial extent. The Brazilian territory is made up of 8,512 km², with a population of 160 million inhabitants. Paraguay was consolidated as a state with only 407 km² and a population of 4.5 million. Uruguay, with an area of 177 km², has a population of 3.1 million. Argentina, with 2,767 km² and 32 million inhabitants, is more industrialized and has markedly European characteristics with regard to its level of urbanization.

The formation of these nations and their cultural specificities can be attributed largely to their patterns of international migration. In the 17th century, the immigrants who arrived as colonisers or slaves determined regional characteristics. In the 19th century, the social and political crisis in Europe and the rise of independence movements in Latin American countries spurred new migration to the region, with Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Chile being the main destinations. With the exception of Paraguay, the Italians had a notable participation in this process and were a major influence on the Southern Cone. The last great immigration wave from Europe occurred after the Second World War, with Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela as the main destination countries.

Historical diversity in the Southern Cone countries is reinforced by their country-specific industrialisation processes. While Paraguay’s economy is still based on traditional agriculture, Uruguay has high levels of urbanisation and education and is undergoing a recent industrialisation process. Political conditions have encouraged emigration, predominantly of young people. Argentina and Brazil have a more structured pattern of industrialisation, but suffer deep social inequality.

Recent international migrations in the Southern Cone countries are characterised by two types of flow: one is directed toward industrialised countries (especially the US); and the other occurs within the region. In the first case, it has been observed that migration increases with the level of education, or with the expansion of the middle class in the countries involved. The globalisation of consumerism and life styles, largely through the influence of the media, generates expectations that cannot be satisfied in people’s countries of origin, increasing the number of potential migrants. In Brazil, a country that traditionally attracted migrants, a negative balance of 1.4 million people was observed between 1980 and 1991.
Despite the economic integration represented by MERCOSUR, inequalities between countries in the region have increased. Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, all traditional destinations for European immigration (and in the case of Brazil, for Asian immigration too), received the main flows of population until after the Second World War.

The labour markets of the MERCOSUR countries are characterised by the growth of new types of occupation, many of which are part-time or home based, and by the growth of the informal workforce. There has been a trend towards an increased participation of women. In the period between 1950 and 1990 the economically active population increased from 20 to 27% in Argentina, from 15.4 to 29.6% in Brazil, from 14.4 to 21.9% in Paraguay, and from 18.7 to 38.5% in Uruguay. By the year 2000 the total estimated economically active population for all countries will reach approximately 90 million people: 15 million in Argentina, 72.2 million in Brazil, and 1.5 million in Paraguay and Uruguay. This corresponds to 41.1%, 43%, 38.5% and 46.9% of their total population.

In this context, the MERCOSUR nation states propose the free trade of goods, services and means of production, as well as the establishment of a common external tariff and the co-ordination of macroeconomic and sectoral policies such as the harmonisation of relevant legislation. The social dimension of the integration agreements is not part of the document 'Treaty for the construction of a common market between the Republic of Argentina, the Federal Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay' signed in 1991. The search for social justice described in the preamble of the document is not reflected by explicit actions to protect the social groups most vulnerable to the process of globalisation. Subsequent meetings between governments have dealt with this topic, centering discussions around the needs of workers, and committing themselves to co-operating with regard to employment, social security, professional training and individual/collective work relations.

Comments

Discussion focused on the priorities which need to be addressed in the process of reformulating migrants' problems. These included:

- the establishment of formal rights for immigrant workers in their host countries
- the linking of legal provisions and policies on health and education with the commercial agenda of MERCOSUR, to avoid increased inequality and social conflict
the inclusion of gender issues, a debate opened up by the pressure of women's movements in Latin America, on the social and labour agenda of MERCOSUR.

3.2 Profiles and Trends of International Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean

3.2.1 International migration patterns in Latin America and the Caribbean

Miguel Villa, CELADE/CEPAL

A lack of information sources and the unreliability of much existing data on migration place constraints on the generation of an adequate knowledge base to explain migration, predict change and assess the effect of migration processes. Population censuses are the primary resource available for research into migration. Following the 1970 census, the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) established the Research on International Migration in Latin America project (IMILA) through data exchange between countries in the region. For the censuses of 1980 and 1990, data are available for the majority of Latin American countries on the number of immigrants and emigrants, as well as on socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the migrants. However, this information has many of the restrictions typically associated with census data, which make temporal and substantive comparisons difficult to make. For instance, registration is often of the accumulated stock – not flows – of migrants, and irregular or temporary migrants may not be clearly identified. Despite these restrictions, IMILA has contributed to the development of international migration research in the region and it constitutes an example of international co-operation worthy of replication.

Using IMILA data, three major migration patterns can be discerned:

- immigration from overseas
- intra-regional migration
- extra-regional emigration.

The flow of immigrants from overseas has declined in the last few decades, and combined with return movements and the effects of mortality, the stock of extra-regional immigrants in Latin America and the Caribbean has fallen substantially.
in the 1990s. Intra-regional migration is influenced both by historical factors, such as unequal economic and social development and political unrest, and by current circumstances. The stock of intra-regional migrants doubled in the 1970s and then stabilised at the beginning of the 1990s. Argentina and Venezuela have been the principal destinations, with migrants originating mainly from Colombia, Chile and Paraguay. Costa Rica and Mexico have also received large numbers of displaced people from Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala as a result of social and political turmoil. Extra-regional migration is principally to the US. While the majority of extra-regional emigrants are from Mexico and the Caribbean, the greatest relative increase since the 1980s has been in flows from Central and South America.

The diversity of migrants encompassed by these three patterns of migration and the increasing complexity of the factors associated with migration demand an integrated conceptual framework which takes account of both individual and structural factors as influences on migration.

3.2.2 Economic integration and international migration in Latin America

Juan Jose Calvo, Population Program, Universidad de Republica, Uruguay

Contemporary international migration occurs within the context of globalisation and regionalisation. However, national and administrative borders persist, with varying degrees of permeability, and thus condition the intensity and nature of exchanges between states and regions. Through the process of economic regional integration, the liberalisation of trade should theoretically result in the specialisation of countries according to their productive resources, leading to a harmonisation of prices and removing international salary differentials as an incentive for migration. The increase of direct foreign investment should generate new jobs in those countries with an initially greater migration potential, again reducing the stimulus for outmigration. In summary, the liberalisation of trade is proposed as a substitute for the movement of people, acting as a deterrent for international migration. The European Union, NAFTA, and MERCOSUR all represent regional integration, but they are very different in their nature, history and objectives and their experiences of migration following that integration have also been very different.

After the creation of the common market in Europe, there was a decrease in intra-community population movements and a substantial growth of
immigration from outside the European Community (EC). The first of these can be explained by the narrowing of salary differentials; the second by commercial protectionism against countries outside the EC. In contrast, NAFTA places great restrictions and regulations on the circulation of people in the economic spaces comprising the new economic region. Despite this, it can be argued that migration pressures in the short-term have increased.

Patterns of international migration in Latin America historically have been related to varying development levels, geographic proximity and pre-existing international relationships. A new factor has been introduced in the form of regionalisation, and, from an economic perspective, future migration patterns in the MERCOSUR countries are likely to depend on:

- the strengthening of the integration project between the four MERCOSUR countries, which will particularly influence intra-regional movements;
- the articulation of the integrated MERCOSUR group with the other countries in the region, specifically whether or not the agreement is expanded, and whether new policy on the circulation and settlement of people within the regional economic spaces is introduced;
- the insertion of MERCOSUR into the global economy.

3.2.3 Globalisation, migration and social movements: a Brazilian perspective

Pe. Sidnei Marco Darnels, Centro de Studios Migratorios, Brazil

Several social movements concerned with the issue of migration operate in Brazil, including those linked to the Pastoral Migrations Unit of the Catholic Church. The main problems faced by migrants are related to lack of legal status and the problems this causes in obtaining stable employment. Irregular migrants are vulnerable to exploitation by employers, as they have no recourse to the law. The case of Bolivian immigrants in the Sao Paulo garment industry illustrates this. Migrants also form a community which is often socially excluded, and this problem may be heightened when they become segmented into ethnic enclaves. Many migrants are helped by the Pastoral Migrations Unit, but the position and role of immigrants in Brazilian society is something which requires attention and far-reaching change.
3.3 Facts and Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean

3.3.1 Information systems and international migration

Hector Collantes, IOM SIMICA Project, Peru

The Information System on International Migration in the Andean Commonwealth (SIMICA) project is an information system on migration for the Andean community. It was designed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE). SIMICA's conceptual framework takes account of international agreements, especially those derived from the International Conference on Population and Development. Five Andean countries – Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela – are currently participating in the project. It is expected that the data provided by the information system set up in each country as part of SIMICA will contribute to increased knowledge on the level and characteristics of migration and, importantly, to the development and redefinition of migration policies in response to globalisation.

The main problems faced by SIMICA relate to the lack of information on how migration affects the development process, due to insufficient knowledge of the demographic, social and economic characteristics of migrants. The main reasons for this lack of information are:

- outdated information sources
- the generation of information by multiple organisations
- difficulties in obtaining homogeneous, comparable and reliable statistics
- delays in production and publication.

The objectives of the SIMICA project are:

- to systematise information related to the registration of the entries and exits of national and foreign travellers
- to disseminate and exchange statistical information through a range of media.

Information sources are mainly:

- National population censuses. While the census information of any particular country does not allow for direct estimates of international emigration, the data on the native population of that country appearing in the censuses of other countries can be used for this purpose.
- Records of entries and exits through international ports (land, sea and air). This source has great potential for the estimation of migration flows.
The principal achievements of the SIMICA project to date are:

- The collection, evaluation, processing and tabulation of data on foreign-born individuals.
- The design and generation of an international migration database to process information on each participating country and on the Andean region as a whole. This database is held at the International Centre for Latin American Migration (CIMAL).
- The development of methodologies to analyse the socio-demographic and socio-economic characteristics of international migration in the Andean communities.
- The quantification of migration flows between Andean countries.
- The publication and distribution of statistical annuals on population movements.
- The dissemination of information via the Internet.

3.3.2 International migration in Central America and the Caribbean

Gunter Mussig, IOM, Chile

International migration in Central America can be classified as:

- population movements, particularly of refugees, arising from armed conflict within the region;
- movement connected with ‘normal’ migration patterns.

Refugees have been fleeing Nicaragua and Guatemala since the late 1970s, going mainly to Costa Rica, Honduras and Mexico. In the mid-1980s, Guatemala reinstated a democracy, and there was a massive return of migrants. Huge numbers of migrants and refugees left El Salvador in the early 1980s and went to Honduras, the nearest country in which they could find refuge. In the 1990s, uprisings in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, resulted in an increase in the number of refugees arriving in Guatemala.

The ‘normal’ migration patterns in Central America are of three main types:

- Mexicans who migrate to the US
- Emigrants from South America who want to migrate to the US
- Nicaraguans who migrate to Costa Rica, Guatemala and El Salvador.

In the Caribbean, conditions are quite different, as this geographical region serves as a transit zone for migrants en route to a final destination elsewhere, as well as a source of emigrants to the US. For instance, an estimated
350,000 Jamaicans live in the US. On the other hand, the Dominican Republic acts principally as a receiving country for manual labourers from Haiti. As well as being a source of economic migrants, Haiti also generates a significant number of refugees.

A number of return programmes for refugees and migrants are operating within the region. For example, a project in Mexico, supported by the Mexican and Guatemalan governments and by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), aimed to give repatriated families and individuals access to credit for the purchase of land and for use in other productive investments in order to aid their reintegration. The return process began in 1987, but the first mass return did not take place until 1993. However internally displaced persons did not receive the same attention and many suffered extreme poverty and exclusion.

In Central America today, many countries have replaced their authoritarian regimes and a Central American Commission of Directors of Migration (OCAM) was set up in 1990 to further political, economic, social and cultural integration. OCAM promotes measures to harmonise regional migration policies and passport controls. The specific objectives of OCAM are:

- to provide the necessary basis for the formulation of new migration policies, and for improving the management of national migration offices.
- to develop mechanisms for the co-ordination of national information offices regarding migration laws and regulations.
- to develop migration administration services, especially through human resources training.

3.3.3 The Andean sub-region: international migration

Jorge Martinez, CELADE/CEPAL

The Information System on International Migration in the Andean Commonwealth (SIMICA) project, an information system on international migration in the countries of the Andean community, has made it possible to ascertain the general patterns and trends of migration in the 1990s. However, it should be noted that these data refer only to permanent migration, taking no account of other kinds of mobility, such as circular or temporary migration. The main patterns of international migration in the Andes represent a broad continuation of trends established in the 1980s.

For migration outside the Andean sub-region, the principal destination is the US, but equally important, involving similar numbers of migrants, are
intra-regional movements, such as that from Colombia to Venezuela. Analysis of census data suggests three main trends:

- a decline in emigration
- a growth of return migration
- an increasing impact of mortality on earlier migration streams.

Most migrants, both those who have moved within the region and those who have gone to the US, fall into the economically active age category (15–64 years), and there is a predominance of women, especially in the older age-groups. For the intra-regional migrants, the percentage of single women outweighs that of single men, although the percentage of women with higher education is lower than that of men. Labour force participation is higher for men. In contrast, in the US, the proportion of female Andean immigrants having higher education is greater than that for men, and the level of labour force participation is more equal, with more than two thirds of the economically active population working. These factors may combine to make women less socially and economically dependent on men, which may in fact be a stimulus of female migration.

### 3.3.4 International migration and the relationship between Chile and MERCOSUR

Pedro Hernandez, Instituto Catolico Chileno de Migracion
ICAMI, Chile

The Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1998, addressed several key issues affecting migrant workers. These included:

- the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families
- the fulfilment of international agreements and the promotion of new bilateral and multilateral agreements
- the obligation of states to formulate policies and legislation on the social and civil rights of migrants.

In the context of globalisation, some of the factors which promote international migration are:

- the increasing difference between countries in terms of their level of development, such that even neighbouring countries may be greatly unequal;
- cheaper costs and easier means of transportation of both people and goods;
- the influence of the media;
- the generation of integration areas and zones between countries (common markets, free trade zones, areas of border integration, etc.);
the expansion of education, stimulating both the desire and the potential to obtain new and better jobs in other areas of the world.

The effects of migration on the individuals involved can be positive. For instance, income levels may increase and raise the standard of living of the family; women may gain more decision-making power and therefore gain a higher status and more independence. They can also be negative, separating families, and sometimes causing children and spouses to be abandoned. Migration may be associated with increased rates of divorce and higher levels of social, economic and political insecurity for the families who stay behind.

Migration in the Southern Cone existed long before MERCOSUR, but it also forms a significant part of interaction and integration within the region. As such, it needs to be incorporated into the policy-making process. The following factors are critical in the formulation of new migration policy:

- Government authorities must be persuaded to guarantee social justice for migrants, seasonal labourers and workers linked to MERCOSUR.
- There is a need for updated information, and a harmonisation of systems and models for data collection and analysis.
- Labour, social security, health and educational aspects need to be included.
- Reciprocity should be a basic principle for initiatives between countries in the region and in areas of integration and migration in border areas.
- Internal migrants, especially those in the most vulnerable groups, also need to be considered.
- Migrants should be viewed not as statistics or as a problem but as citizens, workers, and people with their own culture and beliefs.

### 3.4 Human Rights and the Social Integration of Immigrants in Latin America and the Caribbean

#### 3.4.1 The refugee situation in Latin America

Roberto Garreton, ACNUR

There is a conceptual and practical gap between refugees and migrants. Migrants have no legal framework to protect them, whereas refugees are judicially protected from being returned to their country of origin, where they face persecution. The refugee concept is an old one, but is predated by the tradition of exile.
This age-old practice was legally recognised in 1889 by the Treaty on International Penal Rights. On 2 May, 1948, in Bogota, the American Declaration on the Rights and Obligations of Man was approved, a precursor of the Universal Declaration on the Protection of Human Rights, which confirmed the international rights of the refugee in 1951. There are no agreements concerning internally displaced persons, who do not cross any international borders but who are effectively refugees within their own country.

In Central America, civil war and political unrest produced a significant increase in the number of refugees originating in this region in the decade between 1970 and 1980. The number of refugees today shows a significant decline since that period. The rights afforded to refugees may vary according to political factors. Chile, for instance, maintained its tradition of receiving refugees until 1973, then stopped admitting them during the military dictatorship. The practice of accepting refugees was not reinstated by Chile until 1990.

3.4.2 The ethical dimension of international migration

Tomas Gonzalez, Bishop of Punta Arenas, President of INCAMI

Developing an ethical perspective on migration, one which incorporates truly humanist ethics and values, presents a great challenge to society. It means abandoning moralising, taking on board the behaviour of real people, and strengthening the capacity for dialogue between diverse cultures and ethnicities.

A new ethical perspective must include:

- an evolutionary ethic that is ethnically and culturally diverse, to foster the integration of immigrants;
- a pedagogical ethic with moral values derived from the family and from social and religious communities;
- a supra-national ethic considering each person as a 'universal citizen';
- a family ethic with values and principles that encourage the formation and union of families at the national and international level;
- a supportive ethic which encourages hospitality rather than hostility;
- an innovative ethic with new laws devised in response to the everyday problems of migrants – this also implies an ethic of amnesty for irregular migrants;
- a social ethic that concerns itself with work conditions and counters exploitation;
- an ethic of solidarity, derived from a development model that is viable and beneficial for all.
3.4.3 Workers and human rights in Latin America

Alvaro Tirado, CIDDHH

The Interamerican Commission on Human Rights (CIDDHH) is an organisation for the protection of human rights under the umbrella of the Organization of American States (OAS). Its mandate is based on the American Declaration on the Rights and Obligations of Man and on the American Convention or San Jose Treaty. The Commission has jurisdiction over a vast geographical area, covering 35 member states. Improving the situation of migrant workers forms part of the Commission's current activities. This issue was taken on in the context of current work conditions and the specific mandates of the last two Assemblies and Summits of Heads of State of the hemisphere (held in Miami 1994 and Chile 1998 respectively).

The Interamerican Commission is made up of seven members who serve four-year terms, with the possibility of re-election for a second term by the general assembly. The Commission cannot have more than one member of the same nationality, and once elected, the members act as independent experts, not as representatives of their own countries. One of the most important functions of the Commission concerns individual petitions. The American Convention states that an individual can bring a case of violation of human rights for the victim, family members or a non-governmental organisation. The Commission then determines whether or not the individual case constitutes a violation of human rights, and its decision cannot be contradicted. Where a case is determined to be a human rights violation, a moral sanction is levied through the publication of the Commission's proceedings, and the case can also be taken to court. However, the larger countries have not engaged with this system. The US, Canada, Brazil, and Mexico, plus some Caribbean nations, have not ratified the American Agreement, and therefore do not recognise the jurisprudence of the Interamerican Court for Human Rights. There are some signs that this situation is improving, as the governments of Mexico and Brazil are in the process of accepting the jurisprudence of the court.

The Commission can also intervene to provide precautionary measures in specific cases. For example, in the case of death threats, the Commission can ask for protection for the person involved. In addition, the Commission produces general reviews of human rights and their violation in various countries, with sections specifically devoted to the situation of migrant workers. A review on Mexico was recently completed, and reviews on Colombia and the Dominican Republic are in preparation and will be distributed via the Internet. Future plans for the Commission include a review of the situation of migrant workers in Texas,
US. The Commission also administers a fund to support migrant workers, which is available to countries and institutions working on this issue.

3.4.4 The social integration of immigrants in the MERCOSUR countries: research on international migration

Mario Santillo, CEMLA

Many studies of migration have been undertaken in Argentina in recent years, and most emphasise the need to understand and explain the causes and consequences of the observed increase in discrimination against immigrants in some sectors of Argentinian society. This discrimination occurs in the education system, in healthcare provision, and in the job market, and is directed at immigrants from neighbouring countries as well as at those from further away, such as Koreans.

Research to date has focused mainly on:

- the insertion of immigrants in the job market
- the mobility of migrants and their opportunities for progression in various sectors of the job market
- the social discrimination experienced by immigrants
- irregular immigration
- migration policies.

Demographic and statistical analyses have been based on the recent publication of the final results of the 1991 Census, and have focused on:

- characterising the immigrant population by sex and country of origin
- describing demographic characteristics such as mortality
- looking at the structure of immigrant families
- quantifying migrant rates of economic activity
- analysing the entries and exits of migrants.

The recent creation of MERCOSUR has become an increasing focus of academic interest, opening up new areas of inquiry, such as its impact on migration in the region; the development of new legal and juridical relationships; and its effect on the organisation of work, training and education.
4 Discussion on the Establishment of a Network for Migration Studies in Latin America and the Caribbean (REMIALC)

The objective of the final session of the seminar was to hold an open discussion on topics relevant to the establishment of a research network for the study of migration in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The general objectives of such a network would be:

- to carry out comparative research projects on various aspects of migration;
- to develop research capacities in the region and pursue theoretical and methodological advances in migration research through international seminars and training courses for researchers;
- to provide research and advisory services for policy-makers at the national and international levels;
- to assist in the design of high quality research projects and in raising the quality of international migration data collection and analysis.

Several topics emerged from the session as areas for further research and future action:

- Migration in the context of globalisation and related changes such as an homogenisation of cultures, transformations of gender roles, increasing labour market flexibilisation, and a growth in new types of migration;
- Methodology, focusing on increasing the potential of the year 2000 census for migration studies;
- Migration from a human rights perspective;
- Migration and sustainable development, with the concept of sustainability going beyond the standard environmental perspective to include economic, political and socio-cultural stability as well;
- Migration policy and the links between research and public policy;
- Communication of research findings outside the expert arena to disseminate information and promote change.

A working group was formed and it was decided that this group would organise a follow-up meeting to finalise the specific objectives, modalities, the organizational structure, project proposals and the work plan of the network. The meeting of the working group will take place early in the year 2000, possibly in Montevideo, Uruguay.
Regional Seminar

Globalization and International Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean: Trends and Prospects for the 21st century

UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST)
Centre for Public Policy Analysis, University of Chile
27–29 October 1998, Santiago, Chile

Program

17 October 1998

09.30 – 10.15 Opening remarks and welcome
Serim TIMUR, Head of Population and Migration Unit, UNESCO
Raúl URZÚA, Director, Centre for Public Analysis, University of Chile
Lorenzo AGAR, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Chile

10.15 – 12.30 Panel 1: International migration, globalisation and regional and subregional integration agreements in Latin America and the Caribbean
Chair: Raúl URZÚA
Alicia MAGUID (INDEC, Argentina)
Migration, regional integration and job market segmentation: the Argentinian case

Alejandro CANALES (Universidad de Guadalajara, México).
The globalisation process and NAFTA: effects on international migration

Neide PATARRA (Nucleo de Estudos de População, Brasil)
Economic integration, the job market and international migration: the case of MERCOSUR

15.00 - 18.00
Panel 2: Profiles and trends of international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean
Chair: Alejandro CANALES

Lelio MÁRMORA (IOM, Argentina)
Globalisation, international migration and democratic governability

Miguel VILLA (CELADE/CEPAL, Chile)
International migration patterns in Latin American and Caribbean populations

Juan José CALVO (Programa de Población, Universidad de la República Uruguay)
Economic integration and international migration in Latin America

Pe. Sidnei Marco DORNELAS (Centro de Estudos Migratórios, Brazil)
Globalisation, migration and social movements: a Brazilian perspective

28 October 1998

09.30 - 12.30
Panel 3: Facts and policies in Latin America and the Caribbean
Chair: Oscar SARAVIA

Héctor COLLANTES (IOM, Proyecto SIMICA, Perú)
Information systems and international migration.

Günter MÜSSIG (IOM, Chile)
International migration in Central America and the Caribbean
Jorge MARTÍNEZ (CELADE/CEPAL)
   The Andean sub region: international migration
Pedro HERNÁNDEZ (INCAMI, Chile)
   International migration and the relationship between
   Chile and MERCOSUR

15.00 – 18.00  Panel 4: Human rights and the social integration of immigrants in Latin America and the Caribbean
Chair: Pedro Hernández

Roberto GARRETÓN (Lawyer for ACNUR in Chile
   The refugee situation in Latin America
Tomás GONZÁLEZ (Instituto Católico de Migraciones (INCAMI), Chile)
   The ethical dimension of international migration
Alvaro TIRADO (Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos)
   Workers and human rights in Latin America
Mario SANTILLO (Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos, Argentina)
   The social integration of immigrants in the MERCOSUR countries: research on International migration

29 October 1998

09.30 – 12.00  Panel 5: Discussion on the establishment of a network for migration studies in Latin America and the Caribbean (REMIALC)
Chair: Lorenzo AGAR

12.00 – 12.30  Closing remarks
Serim TIMUR, Raúl URZÚA, Lorenzo AGAR
Appendix 11

Regional Seminar

Globalisation and International Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean: Trends and Prospects for the 21st Century

Santiago, Chile, 27–29 October, 1998

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