

## **LIMA DECLARATION**

**Lima, Peru, 14 July 1999**

The representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, assembled at the South American Meeting on Migration, Integration and Development, held in the city of Lima, Peru, on 13 and 14 July 1999, after hearing the statements of the representatives and the exchange of views on the migration situation in their respective countries, hereby sign the following Declaration:

Having noted that:

- The migration movements have intensified, making it increasingly desirable to extend their analysis to the regional, continental and global contexts,
- These migration processes are linked, inter alia, to the economic and social development problems of the countries generating these processes,
- The countries of the region represented at the Meeting have opted for an associative and interactive response through the processes of subregional integration, such as MERCOSUR and the Andean Community, within which significant progress is being made in the treatment of migration,
- The migration movements constitute vectors of change, intercultural linkage and stimulation of development processes, for which reason migration could become a factor for development in the medium and long terms,
- The issue of migration is of overwhelming importance, and requires increased and intensified analysis and exchange of information on migration movements between the countries of South America and other regions of the world,
- Respect for the human rights of migrants constitutes a basic concern of the countries of the region,
- In order to deal more effectively with the question of migration, the modernization and institutional strengthening of the national organizations competent in this area are necessary,
- International technical and financial cooperation is considered a valuable means of contributing to the attainment of better results in the area of migration,

The governmental representatives participating in the South American Meeting on Migration, Integration and Development

HEREBY DECLARE;

1. The importance of the migration processes in the region makes it desirable that they should be monitored for the purposes of the analysis and discussion of the question of migration, in order to find solutions consistent with the interests of the countries involved through channels

characterized by dialogue and cooperation;

2. The Delegates present at this Meeting agree to maintain consultations with the aim of organizing a Conference to follow up the question covered in this Lima Declaration, a Conference which the Government of the Argentine Republic has offered to host;

3. The Delegates here present convey their special thanks to the Government of Peru for its hospitality and to the International Organization for Migration for serving as the Technical Secretariat for this Meeting, and also express their gratitude to the Delegation of the United States of America for its participation as an observer.