

CONCEPT NOTE

Second Thematic Consultation of the Cartagena+40 Process *Inclusion and Integration through Alternative, Comprehensive and Sustainable Solutions*

Brasilia, 16-17 May 2024

I. Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Technical Secretariat of Cartagena+40 (C+40), led by the Government of Chile, with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Government of Brazil and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), to inform and guide discussions among Latin American and Caribbean States, as well as contributions from local authorities and municipalities, regional and sub-regional mechanisms, international agencies, civil society organisations, refugee-led organisations, academia, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, the private sector, and international development and finance actors, during the Cartagena+40 Process.

This Second Thematic Consultation on "Inclusion and integration through alternative, comprehensive and sustainable solutions" aims to foster collective reflection to identify, highlight and promote solutions that have shown potential benefits for displaced and stateless persons and host communities. These have sought to promote self-reliance policies, access to public and social services such as housing, health and education, and social and labour inclusion with a focus on the role of host communities and local actors, as well as innovative initiatives. This approach ensures a comprehensive perspective that prioritises vulnerable groups, especially children and adolescents, women, the LGBTIQ+ community, indigenous people, and Afro-descendants so that they are the central focus of all actions.

It seeks to highlight the relevance of these actions as part of a comprehensive solutions strategy that allows for effective and sustainable integration, avoiding secondary movements and emphasising the contributions and positive potential of displaced, refugee and stateless populations, as well as shared opportunities for the development of host countries. Third-country solutions through the expansion of legal admission channels, including resettlement and humanitarian, employment, education and family-based complementary pathways shall also be considered. Importance should also be given to voluntary, safe and dignified return, respecting international standards and sustainable reintegration in communities of origin.

Finally, this Consultation will provide an opportunity to anticipate the challenges and opportunities that will emerge in the region over the next decade.

II. Context and current practices

In destination countries, the increasing arrival of people in a complex situation of human mobility presents new challenges for the humanitarian and protection response, including additional pressure on the social systems of States and local authorities. This reality underscores the complexities of access to fundamental rights such as housing, health and education, highlighting the need for comprehensive plans that encompass not only access to legal admission channels and documentation – including travel documents – but also social inclusion and employment to ensure the resilience and self-sufficiency of displaced persons and their contributions to host communities. It is essential to mitigate the impact of mass arrivals of displaced persons on local populations and to strengthen social cohesion with host communities, reducing discrimination, xenophobia, violence and exploitation.

Despite these significant challenges, countries in the region, including cities and local governments, have developed innovative practices to facilitate the inclusion and integration of displaced persons, refugees and stateless persons, generating shared opportunities. For example, many countries have ensured the right to work and promoted labour integration through innovative approaches, such as voluntary internal relocation mechanisms, and developed employment programmes supported by the private sector. In addition, public policies focusing on the inclusion of displaced persons, initiatives to promote education at all levels, and recognition of degrees and diplomas have been implemented, providing them with the necessary skills and tools to integrate into their new communities and rebuild their lives. Access to rights has also been ensured through programmes facilitating legal stay and documentation and training of public officials, among other measures. Recognising and valuing these contributions is fundamental to fostering more inclusive and equitable societies.

The new Plan of Action will be an opportunity to disseminate and regionalise these good practices, reinforcing their implementation through cooperation mechanisms that allow for joint progress and solidarity between countries of origin, transit, destination and return. It will also seek to implement a comprehensive strategy for solutions that will make it possible to link humanitarian assistance with long-term legal, socio-economic and socio-cultural inclusion based on a gender-inclusive, intersectional and intercultural approach.

III. Technical and strategic areas of discussion

The focus areas of this Second Consultation have been defined in response to the priorities and needs identified in recent years in the region, in synergy with the principles of the Global Compact on Refugees. The consultation aims to generate a space for inclusive reflection towards formulating common strategies, commitments and responses to support countries of origin, transit, destination and return and their host communities as key actors for sustainable development and for the integration and self-reliance of displaced and returnees. People and their journey along the route will be the centre of all actions.

In this context, five technical areas of discussion have been identified, each with specific issues to be addressed, accompanied by guiding questions to guide the debate towards the development of common solutions.

Participants in the Consultation are encouraged to frame their interventions around one or more of the suggested questions in order to achieve an effective outcome for the consultative process.

SEGMENT 1: SUPPORTING HOST COMMUNITIES AS A STRUCTURAL ELEMENT OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND SOCIAL COHESION

The presentation of good practices that can be adapted, replicated or generalised at the regional level is encouraged. Innovative responses and solutions are invited to facilitate new pragmatic and effective programmes and strategies. It is requested to review the document ["State interventions and presentation of national good practices at the C+40 Consultations"](#).

- **Host community development programmes through constructive multi-stakeholder collaboration.** What features should community development plans have to be inclusive of displaced persons and benefit host communities? How can we ensure the direct participation of displaced persons in decision-making related to their integration? How can refugee and displaced persons-led organisations be strengthened to ensure they have the resources to contribute to integration and development efforts in their communities?
- **Strengthening access to health, medical care, and psychosocial well-being:** How can we ensure access to national public health and medical care systems? How can we provide psychosocial assistance to displaced and stateless persons? How can we strengthen gender, intersectionality, and interculturality in policies, especially for girls and women? How can we promote inclusive and intercultural health campaigns?
- **Availability of housing, water and sanitation for refugees and migrants:** What initiatives can be developed to enable access to these services without affecting the accessibility of the local population or eventually strengthening them?
- **Access to education in transit and in host countries:** What legal, practical or material barriers affect the effective inclusion of displaced populations in education systems? How can education in transit be ensured to prevent delays that could affect learning and development outcomes? How can we expand access to higher/university technical education to foster integration, employment and contribution to host communities? How to facilitate the revalidation of degrees and diplomas for adults, including university degrees? How can the Sergio Vieira de Mello Chairs and other academic initiatives contribute to strengthening institutional and technical capacity to address the challenges related to the inclusion of displaced populations?
- **Social cohesion:** How can negative narratives against displaced persons be changed? How can programmes, actions, and campaigns for peaceful coexistence and intercultural integration be promoted? How can intercultural exchange between host communities and refugees and migrants be promoted? How can countries coordinate to develop and implement campaigns at the regional level

to reinforce the message in communities along the route?

SEGMENT 2: BUILDING POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC INCLUSION, SELF-RELIANCE, FINANCIAL ACCESS FOR RESILIENCE, INTEGRATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO HOST COMMUNITIES

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- **Economic inclusion for resilience, integration and community development:** What characteristics should the documentation of displaced and stateless persons have to promote their economic inclusion and integration? How can documentation delivery be strengthened? What innovative mechanisms can be implemented, in collaboration with the private and financial sector or international agencies, to generate sustainable employment/ labour integration opportunities? What initiatives can be taken to avoid informality, thus contributing to the self-sufficiency, financial health and fiscal revenues (tax collection) of countries? How can gender, intercultural and intersectional integration be promoted? How can the cultural diversity, human capital and entrepreneurial drive of displaced persons be harnessed to develop innovative and cutting-edge programmes, including those linked to the jobs of the future, and which also benefit host communities? How can the naturalisation of refugees and stateless persons be facilitated as a tool for protection and sustainable integration?
- **Access to financial mechanisms and banking services, such as microcredit.** What legal, practical or material barriers affect access to a transaction account - the first step to financial inclusion for displaced persons? How can access to valuable and affordable financial products and services that meet the needs of displaced persons - transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurance - be delivered in a responsible and sustainable way?
- **Strengthening solidarity at borders with programmes that alleviate the burden on first-host communities.** What reception and care initiatives can be developed in border areas that also benefit host communities? What is required to develop internalisation or voluntary relocation programmes that allow for the full integration of refugees within the country?

SEGMENT 3: EXTENDING LEGAL ADMISSION CHANNELS TO THIRD COUNTRIES AS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY STRATEGY

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[at the C+40 Consultations".](#)

- **Expansion of protection intake channels, such as refugee resettlement.**
How can resettlement programmes be strengthened and expanded, both within and outside the region? How can community sponsorship for these programmes be expanded and strengthened?
- **Complementary pathways for admission to third countries: implementation or expansion of humanitarian admission programmes, readmission agreements, private or community sponsorship programmes, labour mobility and study visas.** How can humanitarian, labour or study visa programmes be strengthened as durable solutions? What other innovative complementary pathways can countries develop as a responsibility-sharing strategy? How can we ensure the sustainability of these programmes and enable the effective integration of those benefiting from complementary admission channels? How can the Chile Plan of Action be a regional instrument for the promotion of bilateral readmission agreements - in third countries - that guarantee security and dignity, the respect for the principle of non-refoulement and human rights, as well as the sustainability of readmission?
- **Promotion of family unity.** How can family reunification become a pathway of admission and legal regularisation as a solution for a significant part of the population in human mobility? What steps should States take to expedite, promote flexibilisation and streamline these procedures?

SEGMENT 4: VOLUNTARY RETURN AND SUPPORT TO REINTEGRATION

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- **Guarantees of voluntary repatriation in conditions of safety and dignity, ensuring the exercise of free and informed choice.** How do we develop safeguards to guarantee respect for the principle of non-refoulement? How do we create favourable conditions for safe and dignified repatriation? How do we ensure that returns are carried out in a humane manner, respecting the human rights and dignity of returnees?
- **Sustainable reintegration and community reintegration needs.** How do we identify the needs of receiving communities and support to welcome and integrate returnees? How can we promote reintegration assistance policies and equal access to rights, services and social protection, including the rights to work, housing, land and property upon return, and ensure that such policies benefit receiving communities equally and strengthen social cohesion?

SEGMENT 5: REGIONAL AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY MECHANISMS

This segment is a continuation of the reflection initiated at the First C+40 Thematic Consultation in Mexico City, in which important paths and criteria for action were suggested, among them:

- 1) The Chile Plan of Action is the adapted regional implementation of the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees, aligning its implementation mechanism to the Global Refugee Forums and High-Level Officials' Meetings to maximise the use of an existing and relevant mechanism for all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, avoiding duplication or the creation of a new mechanism. This will optimise regional processes, strengthening them through the participation of various non-state actors and promoting resource mobilisation.
- 2) That countries and other interested stakeholders in the region link their commitments to the Global Forum on Refugees to the thematic areas and definitions of the Chile Plan of Action in order to promote synergies in its implementation;
- 3) The importance of adopting a practical and pragmatic approach to avoid duplication, overlapping, and multiplication of efforts of the various regional mechanisms and to consolidate an initiative at the hemispheric level, making joint work in the region more efficient and encompassing all states in the region. The Cartagena+40 Process is the most geographically inclusive, focused on protection issues and solutions.
- 4) The proposal to establish a follow-up mechanism for Latin American and Caribbean countries to monitor the implementation of the Chile Plan of Action through a periodic review system, with a follow-up Commission and a Support Platform.
- 5) Following the example of the regional mechanisms and fora linked to the protection of persons in human mobility and statelessness present at the First Consultation, all are urged to link their pledges made at the Global Forum on Refugees to the [multi-stakeholder engagement of](#) and to consider the Cartagena+40 Process and the Chile Plan of Action as a space for regional articulation.

In this second stage of reflection on regional mechanisms and shared responsibility, participants are encouraged to deepen and address the design of an implementation and follow-up mechanism for the Chile Action Plan that ensures synergy, articulation and non-overlap with other existing mechanisms in the region and guarantees the effective participation of other stakeholders.

- **Synergies with other regional mechanisms.** How can the other regional mechanisms promoting solutions contribute to the C+40 Process and the Chile Declaration and Plan of Action (CPA) implementation? How can the implementation mechanism of the CPA be articulated with the follow-up and implementation mechanisms of the Global Compact on Refugees (Global Forum and High-Level Meeting of Officials) and thus avoid duplication?
- **Cooperation between countries in the region, shared responsibility and private sector support.** How can

the CPA be a space that favours and promotes south-south cooperation? Could the CPA be a space to generate a network of solidarity enterprises at the regional level, as an articulator of the networks of national enterprises or those linked to the Global Compact?

- **Creation of a C+40 Support Platform with countries interested in supporting the process and other entities: continental platform.** Is creating a new support platform in the region considered strategic and relevant? If so, what would be the added value of having a specific support platform for Cartagena+40? Which actors would be essential to achieve the objectives of the Platform? How could a C+40 Platform be a tool for the implementation of the Chile Plan of Action? How do we favour synergies and avoid duplication with existing ones?
- **Role of other stakeholders in the follow-up and implementation mechanism through a follow-up Commission:** How can other stakeholders, especially civil society and refugee organisations, contribute substantively and constructively to strengthening the follow-up and implementation of the Chile Plan of Action? In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, what characteristics can this Commission have, and how can other donors and development actors be integrated into this mechanism?

Official Website of the Cartagena+40 Process / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile:
<https://www.minrel.gob.cl/proceso-de-cartagena-40>

Information on the Cartagena Process throughout its history and C+40 documents:
<https://www.acnur.org/cartagena40>