



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS AND THEIR HOST COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES

## I. SUMMARY

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On 16-17 March 2023, the European Union and Canada co-hosted the two-day [2023 International Conference](#) in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants and their Host Countries and Communities, the fourth conference for and with Venezuelan people since 2019. The event was organised in collaboration with UNHCR, IOM, and the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V).

The conference had a regional focus (addressing the external dimension of the Venezuela crisis) and emphasised the importance of coordinated action across the humanitarian-development nexus. Specific objectives were to: (1) highlight important progress made to date in the response to the Venezuelan crisis and displacement by host countries and communities, and other relevant local/regional/international stakeholders; (2) show solidarity with host countries and communities, including by mobilising additional resources; (3) raise awareness of key opportunities, priority areas, gaps, and challenges; and (4) identify concrete future actions to maintain focus on the crisis and engage a wider range of stakeholders in the response, including the private sector.

The event was co-organised by the European Commissioner for Crisis Management, Mr. Janez Lenarčič, Canada's Minister of International Development, The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, and IOM Director General, Mr. António Vitorino. The event, which organised in a hybrid mode, was held in European Commission premises in Brussels and brought together a wide range of participants (approximately 280), including representatives from affected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, EU Member States and other donor countries, International Financial Institutions, international and local organisations, the private sector, as well as Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) – including refugee and migrant-led organisations and Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

Participants highlighted the importance of socio-economic integration, regularisation processes, the role of local authorities as first responders, and the need to strengthen regional cooperation and mechanisms on migration, among other topics. Participants also heard directly from Venezuelan refugees and migrants, who shared their stories of struggle and hope; civil society organisations; private sector; the Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; and the UN Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator in Venezuela, who gave an update on the humanitarian situation inside the country.

In the lead-up to the Conference, the LAC-RMD Coalition – Civil Society Organizations for the Defense of the Rights of Refugees, Migrants and Displaced Populations in Latin America and the Caribbean organised a virtual event with Civil Society Organizations on 9 March, giving voice to local and international CSOs as well as people affected by the crisis in Venezuela and in the region. The Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V) organised Thematic Roundtables in the eve of the Conference, with presentations of the main needs identified and the plans included in the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for each sector. The delegations of Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Brazil, and the United States visited the EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre, and the delegations agreed that a similar mechanism at regional level in the Americas could have an added value.

Even though pledging was not required to participate, approximately EUR 815 M in new funding was announced (approximately EUR 507 million in grants and EUR 308 million in loans). In addition, the IADB's allocation of grants up to US\$100 million is expected to leverage at least US\$800 million in investment loans for the LAC region in the next few years to serve migrants and host communities.

## II. HIGHLIGHTS

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- Need to scale up the humanitarian response in Venezuela, especially for the most vulnerable, with a gender perspective and the aim to prevent and eradicate the various forms of discrimination against women, girls, LGBTQI+ persons and Indigenous people.
- Need for a more significant inter-sectoral response with protection as a cross-cutting component, due to the levels of insecurity along the migration routes and the importance of documentation/regularization as a precondition to access services and jobs.
- Continue regularisation and inclusion processes in order to identify and implement comprehensive, affordable, and flexible public policies that can achieve meaningful social, economic, and cultural inclusion of refugees and migrants.
- Need to increase the focus on socio-economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) host countries following a nexus approach. Decent work opportunities are key to ensure refugees' and migrants' dignity. Therefore, it is important to strengthen the involvement of development actors and the private sector.
- Need to improve regional coordination to address new migration patterns (mixed migration flows across LAC).
- Support cross-border collaboration between host countries through improved dialogue at strategic and operational levels. The Conference reiterated the importance of the R4V as a model of operational response as well as the Quito Process as a regional mechanism for the exchange of good practices among host countries of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.
- Continue to work on increasing the visibility of the worsening humanitarian crisis in the region as well as support the mobilisation of additional funding. Information/data remains scarce and partial. Efforts to improve data collection, monitoring and information management at country and regional level are important for advocacy purposes.
- Need to enhance the visibility of and support for good localisation practices in the region, since local NGOs are increasingly taking the lead in the response to this crisis.
- Need for a stronger approach on disaster risk reduction, early warning, and response capacity, fostering regional collaboration. Disaster Preparedness continues to be an important shared priority between host countries and donors, with the need for a more holistic vision including climate adaptation as well as disaster risk management.

### III. PLEDGES

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Donor	Grant amount in EUR <sup>1</sup>
United States	159.714.000,00 €
IADB (Grant)*	93.400.000,00 €
European Commission	75.000.000,00 €
Germany	43.000.000,00 €
Canada	39.829.351,78 €
Spain	21.200.000,00 €
World Bank (Grant)	18.680.000,00 €
Sweden	14.437.886,45 €
Switzerland	11.302.530,25 €
France	9.000.000,00 €
Norway	8.787.280,08 €
Republic of Korea	3.736.000,00 €
Japan	3.268.999,07 €
Ireland	2.500.000,00 €
Netherlands	2.000.000,00 €
Luxembourg	630.000,00 €
Slovenia	80.000,00 €
Malta	20.000,00 €
Guyana	18.680,00 €
Cyprus	10.000,00 €
World Bank (Loans)	308.220.000 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>814.834.728 €</b>
<b>TEAM EUROPE</b>	<b>167.877.886 €</b>
<i>*Loans expected to be leveraged by the IADB's grant to serve migrants and host communities</i>	<i>747.200.000 €</i>

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<sup>1</sup> Operational Rate as of 15/03/2023.