

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE UNHCR-IOM JOINT SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE REGION



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**RESPONSE FOR
VENEZUELAN**
Coordination Platform for
Refugees and Migrants
from Venezuela

Contents

Role and Responsibilities	3
Support to the Quito Process	3
Liaison and Advocacy with States	5
Engagement with international cooperation	6
Visibility to the humanitarian situation in the region	7

Role and Responsibilities

The role of the JSR is designed to support UNHCR and IOM efforts to promote regionally coherent protection mechanisms and solutions for the refugees and migrants of Venezuela, in the spirit of humanity and regional solidarity.

Principal responsibilities of the JSR include:

- Analyze developments, challenges and opportunities pertinent to the Venezuelan refugees and migrants, providing advice on strategic, leadership and institutional actions;
- Liaise and work closely with national governments, regional and sub-regional bodies, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders (including donors and civil society);
- Mobilize support and facilitate the articulation of the international community to address the humanitarian needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

[Joint statement by UNHCR and IOM on the appointment of Mr. Eduardo Stein, as a Joint Special Representative for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region](#)

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Support to the Quito Process

In follow up to the Quito Declaration on Human Mobility of Venezuelan Citizens in the Region (Sept 2018) and its subsequent Plan of Action (Nov 2018), several activities were carried out in support of the government-led initiative, which aims to strengthen coordination and best practices in response to the humanitarian situation impacting countries in the region.

These efforts are carried out in parallel to the implementation of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) and the activities of the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform, which complement national and local authorities in addressing humanitarian needs.



Recent activities included:

- **Engagement with governments on the regional response** – Country visits and direct engagement with governments were carried out in follow up to priority issues of the Quito Plan of Action as well as the impact of developments inside Venezuela on main receiving countries in the region. Advocacy support was also carried out to assist in the renewed participation of Brazil, Mexico and Panama as signatories to the Quito Declaration.
- **Technical support to the Quito Process** – In preparation of the Quito III meeting, the JSR and teams from UNHCR and IOM provided the governments with technical support for the implementation of the Quito Plan of Action. These efforts included a comparative study of State practices in the region for the regular stay of Venezuelans and technical workshops with authorities from receiving countries on registration and documentation, as well as child protection, the latter carried out in coordination with MERCOSUR and UNICEF.
- **Participation in Quito III meetings (8-9 April)** – The JSR submitted a report to participating countries outlining actions taken since Quito II (Nov 2018)¹ and participated in discussions centered on best practices concerning documentation and regular stay arrangements as well as enhanced engagement with international cooperation to respond to both immediate humanitarian needs and issues related to development over the longer-term.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/venezuela-bolivarian-republic/informe-del-representante-especial-conjunto-del-acnur-y-oim>

- [Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan](#)
- [Quito Declaration on Human Mobility of Venezuelan Citizens in the Region](#)
- [Quito Plan of Action](#)
- [Report from Eduardo Stein on Quito III](#)
- [Quito III Declaration](#)



Liaison and Advocacy with States

As part of the JSR's regular engagement with governments and other actors contributing to the humanitarian response, several country visits were carried out, including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. The visits included meetings with key governmental counterparts to strengthen engagement on the humanitarian response and the Quito Process; advocate for maintaining safe and

regular access to territory through open door policies; as well as the socio-economic inclusion of Venezuelans. The JSR's visits also included forums with UN and NGO actors engaged in national-level humanitarian responses to obtain additional first-hand knowledge of local contexts and identify areas of potential cooperation or support.

[ARGENTINA](#)

[BRAZIL](#)

[COLOMBIA](#)

[ECUADOR](#)

[GUYANA](#)

[TRINIDAD](#)

Engagement with international cooperation

Several activities were aimed at mobilizing greater international support to the humanitarian response in the region. Visits were carried out to the United States and the European Union to meet with relevant authorities who are contributing to the humanitarian response and assist in the advocacy with other international cooperation actors.

Additionally, the World Bank extended an invitation to the JSR to participate in its annual Spring Meetings as an expert panelist for the session “Beyond Borders: A Look at the Venezuelan Exodus”. A recent visit to Colombia also included a dedicated session with embassies from donor governments on the regional humanitarian situation and the need for greater international support.

 World Bank

 EU



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Visibility to the humanitarian situation in the region

In addition to attending regular requests from national and international media outlets, the JSR participated in several activities aimed at enhancing public awareness of the humanitarian needs in the region. In Geneva and Panama, the JSR accompanied the launching of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP).

At the New York Headquarters, meetings were held with key elements of the UN System including the Secretary General, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

At the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) in Buenos Aires, the JSR also participated in a Side Event supported by UNHCR and IOM on South-South Cooperation in Response to the Human Mobility of Venezuelan citizens in the South American region.

On April 10th, the JSR was invited to participate in a session of the UN Security Council, alongside the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, to highlight humanitarian needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving to countries in the region and the support required for the humanitarian response and receiving countries.

[Anti-xenophobia statement](#)

[Security Council](#)

[BAPA+40](#)

[Funding Needs](#)



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