



**UNITED NATIONS**

**ECLAC**



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**SOCOMUN  
XXXII**

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TOPIC: MIGRATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION -  
ACCESS TO RIGHTS (HEALTH, EDUCATION, WORK,  
JUSTICE, AND FAMILY LIFE) FOR MIGRANTS



# SOCOMUN XXXII



## ECLAC

### Migration and Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean

Hello delegates, I'm Liam Dowd and I will be your ECLAC committee chair for SOCOMUN XXXII. This is my fourth year in the MUN program and through it I have won awards but more importantly learned valuable leadership skills that I can use in high school and eventually outside of high school when I graduate. MUN has been an amazing experience so far and hopefully we can make SOCOMUN the great introduction to MUN that it was for me when I was just starting out in my freshman year. Outside of MUN, I'm interested in getting my pilot's license, playing golf, computer programming, debate, and photography. Feel free to reach out to the committee leaders anytime using this email address: [socomuneclac@gmail.com](mailto:socomuneclac@gmail.com). Delegates let's make this conference great!

Hello delegate, I'm Daniel Gallegos and I will be your ECLAC committee vice chair for SOCOMUN XXXII. This is my second year in a row doing MUN. At SMCHS, I am the President of the Class of 2025. Some activities I am in are Marching Band, Orchestra, and Lacrosse.

Hello, my name is Sofia Combel, and I will be your Rapporteur at SOCOMUN. I am a sophomore at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and this is my second year in MUN. I love MUN and learning about all the pressing issues that our society is currently facing. Outside of MUN, I am on the school's debate team, and play numerous sports, including basketball and track and field. I look forward to my next role as rapporteur on the SOCOMUN committee.

#### **Procedure**

SOCOMUN XXXII will be hosted on September 23, 2023, and begin with an opening ceremony in the Moiso Pavilion with delegates being expected to sit with their school group and advisors. Following this opening ceremony, our rapporteur (Sofia) or vice chair (Daniel) will walk you to the committee room and we will begin the conference.

For clarification, the procedure we will follow to have a successful conference will be written in this section. We will begin committee with a roll call, delegates must answer with either "present", allowing a delegate to abstain from voting, or "present and voting", which disallows a delegate from abstaining during a voting bloc. This type of roll call will be performed after breaks, lunch, and at the start of the conference to ensure that all delegates are still present.

We will begin with a motion to open debate and directly after a motion to open the speaker's list. The delegate who proposed opening the speaker's list will be given the choice to be added as the first or last speaker on the list. The chair and vice chair will be keeping a score of comments, speeches, and participation in the conference while the rapporteur will be cycling through different speakers as we progress through the list. Speeches should begin by mentioning what policy your country has on this topic and, once we have established this, more information can be added throughout the conference in the forms of comments, speeches, moderated consultations, or informal consultations. The chair will ask if there is a motion to perform a specific action and may "highly smile upon" specific actions to be proposed.



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One of the most common proposals is a motion to enter a moderated caucus. A delegate positioning for this will state the desired speaker time, topic, and total time this caucus will exhaust. For example, a delegate might say “motion for a moderated caucus with a speaking time of 30 seconds, lasting 5 minutes, and on the topic of possible solutions.” The delegate who proposed the moderated caucus will be asked to speak first or last and any other delegates wishing to speak will be asked to raise their placards.

Unmoderated caucuses are another form of motion delegates can make and in this type of caucus delegates can form resolution groups and discuss the topic at hand to come up with solutions, write resolutions, and be informed of other country positions on the topic. Caucuses will be scored differently if it is moderated or unmoderated and participation in these is highly recommended for delegates. Motions may be declared “dilatory” by the chair for the sake of time or to stay on the topic at hand.

After ideas have been shared by delegates, delegates will begin writing resolutions which will be submitted by email to the chair. These resolutions will be debated in a formal consultation in which 2/3 of a resolution group will speak on what their resolution has to offer, ask questions, and then enter voting bloc. Voting bloc is where resolutions are voted on and each delegate can vote “yes”, “no”, or choose to “abstain” if they declared themselves present and not present and voting. After resolution/resolutions are passed, we will conclude SOCOMUN with a closing ceremony in the Moiso Pavilion. In MUN, you are not competing against other delegates and, because of this, diplomacy is rewarded over competition. Be sure to be respectful to other delegates and help make this conference one to remember! M.U.N. is FUN!

## **Background**

For generations, the economic and social problems in Latin America and the Caribbean have forced migrants to look for better lives. In the last decade, the amount of people displaced across borders has grown to more than 400% according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Even worse, many migrants are often not allowed into the social safety net, assistance provided to improve the lives of vulnerable families and individuals experiencing poverty from the destination country to their citizens. This excludes migrants from basic services such as healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. According to the International Labour Organization, “Although the 164 million migrant workers of the 258 million international migrants worldwide contribute fully to the economies of their host and home countries, migrant workers are often excluded from social protection coverage.” (International Labour Organization). Migrants pay taxes in their destination country but are still excluded from the safety nets which are currently only designed to protect citizens. This is a major issue for migrants since they are essentially stranded without help in a country that is unfamiliar to them. These issues are obstacles for migrants who are in search of a better life but instead are left without anything to their name.

With this problem only increasing in severity, the migrants often feel left behind and overlooked by their host country which offers them very little in terms of support. The situation where people are fleeing from Latin America and the Caribbean are dire, with many worried about the safety of themselves and their families from cartel violence. This can leave them with no choice but to leave their home country to protect themselves. In the past, countries have not taken significant action to aid and protect the rights of migrants.



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Illegal immigration is a significant contributor to this issue and only makes it more complicated. Illegal immigrants, while not being welcomed by a destination nation, decide to cross borders illegally and settle in a destination nation regardless. This process can put them in a strange position where they are in a host nation but are not supposed to be, often fearing deportation. This usually occurs due to a lack of accessible migration pathways for the average citizens of nations. In addition, quota systems placed by governments cap the amount of migrants from specific nations per year. One major issue this can cause is with jobs. Many countries prohibit illegal immigrants from working and take comprehensive measures to enforce this. The United States, for example, uses a process called E-Verify to ensure that all employees are legal citizens using their social security numbers. This poses a problem for illegal immigrants who are unable to prove they arrived legally on work visas or have citizenship. This often forces migrants to work in the informal economy, which has many issues such as that it disregards the safety of workers, pays low wages, and is unregulated by the government. If a migrant cannot find work in a destination country, they may rely on social services provided by charities. This can be a major burden to charities who must keep up with the demand of migrant citizens as well as the normal population they serve. This can take up more resources and money from the charity that they may not have. In addition, the same existing problem applies that many social programs provided by governments are often out of reach for illegal immigrants. The fear of being deported is also very real and scary for migrants who must navigate life in a country they may at any time be forced to leave.

If drastic actions are not taken to solve the issue of social protection, it is bound to only get worse. Migration from Latin America and the Caribbean is on the rise due to many factors including violence and a lack of opportunity and is only projected to increase over time. There must be a plan formed by all stakeholders involved in this issue to ensure fair and just treatment of migrants occurs moving forward.

### **Possible Solutions**

To alleviate this problem altogether, we must go to the source. Many migrants flee their home nations due to violence, political unrest, poverty, and economic issues. Fixing these issues in major migration-heavy countries and providing more opportunity will reduce the amount of people that need to immigrate to find better lives. This can be done by improving the economies of migration-heavy nations through investments to grow businesses. Investing in developing nations can create jobs which will reduce unemployment drastically. This will create a snowball effect where people receive a job and get a paycheck which they will then spend on businesses in their nation all the while growing the economy. Economic development is essential to create opportunity and, in turn, reduce the rates of migration. Before a country receives investment, however, investors must be sure their money is secure. Choosing to protect property rights, regulating intellectual property, and eliminating corruption in the government are some steps that governments can take so that investors will feel safer when investing in their nation. Improving the safety situation of nations is another major way to help reduce the number of migrants. Many Latin American nations are unsafe currently, suffering major levels of violence with Doctors Without Borders saying, “Gang-related murders, kidnappings, extortion, and sexual violence are daily facts of life. ‘In my country, killing is ordinary—it is as easy as killing an insect with your shoe,’ said one man from Honduras, who was threatened by gang members for refusing their demand for protection money, and later shot three times.” (Doctors Without Borders). Many migrants flee



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because they do not feel safe even in their home nation. Ending violence and cracking down on cartels and gangs is one major step that can be taken to help prevent migration. One example the region can follow is El Salvador who recently has been mass arresting gang members over the past year with 66,417 being arrested so far according to the Associated Press. The measures have been extremely popular with citizens and successful due to a noticeable reduction in violence. More countries should adopt similar measures themselves in order to protect their citizens and reduce emigration.

Eliminating the informal economy is another action that could be taken to reduce migration. The informal economy is problematic due to the fact it is unregulated by the government which leads to safety concerns for workers. Additionally, these jobs are usually very unskilled and low paid as a result. Bringing people into the formal economy in source countries is a way to reduce migration through better working conditions and the creation of more and improved jobs. Eliminating the informal economy in the destination country additionally can allow migrants to participate in the formal economy which they are usually excluded from now. This solution can be easily implemented through the relaxing of citizenship requirements for some specific jobs.

Illegal immigration is another major factor to consider when discussing this issue. In the United States, there are over eleven million illegal immigrants according to the Migration Policy Institute and the amount is only growing each year. These immigrants face many difficulties when finding jobs and benefiting from government programs. Opening more pathways for legal migration in destination countries will allow more migrants to arrive in safe ways and with the opportunity as any other citizen. This will allow them to participate in the economy legally, receive social services, and pay their fair share of taxes. This will significantly decrease the amount of migrants arriving illegally since the legal process is much faster and easier than before. If the legal immigration pathways are opened there must be stronger border enforcement in destination countries to prevent illegal immigration from occurring. This can be enacted through the creation of more physical barriers and the hiring of more officers to prevent illegal immigration. This will prevent many of the problems associated with illegal immigration, including the issue of receiving the benefits of taxes they did not pay for. Ending illegal immigration would solve some of the major issues associated with economic and social protection since legal migrants are entitled to more benefits in destination nations than their illegal counterparts.

Focusing on short term solutions, the United Nations and other related governmental and non-governmental organizations should support immigrants with resources currently not provided by governments. These services can include ensuring food security, providing shelter, providing jobs, and providing healthcare services for migrants. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has taken the lead in filling this gap through increasing their services to assist over 210,000 people currently in migration routes in the Americas with them writing, "Red Cross Societies in Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico will provide migrants, refugees, and returnees with health care, mental health support, access to water and sanitation services, and cash for them to cover essential needs, such as accommodation or food." (IFRC). This organization should be used as a model for other charities on how to better provide for and protect migrants in search of a better life as they are providing basic services that even governments cannot. The United Nations and related organizations can partner together to pool resources to protect migrants, all providing services they are currently lacking. This will help act as a short



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term solution until major action can be taken to significantly change the migration situation.

Using these solutions, the United Nations and member nations can work towards a future where migrants do not need to leave their home nation for a better life and where migrants can feel safe knowing they are covered under a destination country's social safety net.

## Questions to Consider

These questions are meant to guide delegates in the cultivation of solutions and general research on the topic. They are not going to be asked of delegates specifically in committee, but rather are a resource to help guide delegates to a more comprehensive, detail orientated, and conscience solution development.

1. What role can international organizations such as the United Nations play in providing social protection for migrants?
2. What are legal barriers that prevent migrants from accessing social protection in their destination countries?
3. How can destination countries provide social protection for migrants while also ensuring that migrants pay their fair share of taxes?
4. How can destination countries ensure that migrants have clear pathways for legal immigration?
5. What measures can be taken to reduce the size of the informal economy and protect workers' rights?
6. How can destination countries ensure that migrants have access to basic rights such as healthcare, education, and employment?
7. What steps can be taken to naturalize migrants as citizens and fully integrate them into the social safety net?
8. How does illegal migration impact destination and source countries?

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