



### DECLARATION OF BOGOTA

The Participants to the Second International Forum on Migration and Peace, held in Bogota, Colombia, from 1 to September 3, 2010: the Scalabrini International Migration Network, the inspiration and organization behind the Forum, together with the Scalabrinian Congregation, partner in the organization in Colombia, the General Secretariat of the Mayor Office of Bogotá DC, governmental institutions, foundations and civil society institutions that work in partnership in the organization of the Forum, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureates NGOs governments representatives civil society organizations the United Nations and international organizations representatives from the academia and from research institutions migrants, refugees, displaced and deported people,

#### MEETING

- In the context of the bicentennial of the independence of the

Americas in a hemisphere still marked by deep injustice, inequality and poverty and, at the same time, renewed by that hope whose reasons are continuously being constructed by our people day after day;

- In continuing the process begun at the First Forum held in Antigua, Guatemala, under the title «*Frontiers, Walls or Bridges?*», in the investigation of «*new perspectives on citizenship and democracy*» in this second Forum in Bogotá;
- In a conjunction between migration and violence that considers the migrant as an object and a target of injustice, corruption, trafficking and smuggling trade, and searching for a vision of the migrant with human dignity, thus making him/her the subject and builder of peace and dialogue across borders, so that these, instead of walls, become bridges and common meeting places;
- In the shadow of the dramatic events of San Fernando, Mexico, where 72 Latin American migrants died violently, a tragedy that provides a face and a name to all the cemeteries, invisible and



without crosses, of yesterday and today; a migration that continues to write its journey of hope in rows of open wounds and blood.

- The Forum has confronted thus, once again, the reality of violence and the need to pause to unravel any connection with corruption and disregard for the lives of undocumented or any other minority group.

With the determination to include migration in the building process of a peaceful coexistence as an agent, together with local communities, in the peace talks and in a framework of listening and searching for the common good, we found the promise of

#### THE BLOSSOMING ON NEW REALITIES:

Multiculturalism and diversity must be approached as driving forces for innovation, fresh sources for a renovation of society and cultural heritage, expanding the horizon of the countries, encouraging them to avoid the entrenchment in a past that is dying and to make multiculturalism, which is an element of today's world, change into interculturalism as a moral imperative for our nations.

The wall that divides the migrant from the non-migrant will crack, going from an «I» to a «we» who speaks to and identifies with the different, the other, the invisible or rejected migrant and stranger. From an «I» of the individuality, to the «we» of the diverse and intercultural community that builds together.

The Forum is aware that the migrant, before being a citizen, is a person, a human being, and therefore, a living part of the social, cultural, economic and political fabric of our societies. An unilateral interpretation of the term «migrant» runs the risk of extrapolating and stripping it of its humanity.

«Migrant» is simply an adjective that you apply to a person, the same one that tomorrow may be called sick, elderly, citizen, or neighbor, since the substantive reality of this «migrant» is his humanity.

Citizenship should be more than the possession of a passport or of the right to vote. Even if a human being is invisible due to lack of a document in his hand, that person exists and is the root of society, in order, in its integration with democracy, to move towards a universal citizenship.

The amount of military spending in Latin America, and the increase that has occurred during 2009, reaching \$57,400 million US, (sipri.org), seems to confirm the thesis that the region has entered a new arms race, clearly inappropriate and irrational, that will divert even more of the financial resources needed for the development of the social, economic and cultural life of its peoples. It is not with weapons that poverty and disease can be overcome and even less can they diminish the causes of migration and of this forced exodus of so many that continues to keep open the veins of our countries.

It is hoped that the United Nations, the «international forum»



that wants to act in accordance with the signed and ratified declarations and treaties, might promote the effective protection of the right of every person to remain, leave and return to his/her country. This prompts us to plan for the possibility of creating conventional networks for a migration that is regular, orderly, protected and respected, and regulation of migration that is honest and based on shared values.

We hope that this new attitude may influence a decline of the growing trend towards the criminalization of migration. The identification *a priori* of the migrant with the terrorist or the criminal is a gratuitous discrimination offense.

In this line, the Forum is aware of the inadequacy of policies based solely on national security.

There is a sad, increased industrialization of migration in its most negative sense: people who suffer trafficking or smuggling, the bureaucratic obstacles that force the use of intermediaries and the potential for subsequent exploitation, the risk of transforming the remittances, the fruit of the daily sweat of the migrants, into speculation and undue profits.

We emphasize the need to protect specific segments of the population who suffer from a greater and ever-increasing vulnerability: women, children, young girls, the person with his/her ethnic or indigenous characterization, who are, probably more than anyone else, objects of discrimination, slavery, exploitation and blackmail.

The Forum reaffirm the responsibilities of the countries of origin of migrants, that have the duty to ensure the right conditions for the development of each person staying at home, as well as a socio-economic reintegration in the context of ensuring a decent returns and settlement at home.

The Forum is aware of the strategic importance of the local communities as key factors in the definition of public policies and concrete actions that foster the establishment of a peaceful coexistence between local communities and migrants.

Having underlined these new aspects of migration, the *Scalabrini International Migration Network*, through the process that organizes and promotes the International Forum on Migration and Peace in building a peaceful coexistence,

#### ASSUMES THE COMMITMENT

and encourages all participants of this Second Forum, to:

- Encourage the international community to continue its discussion at the United Nations Organization on February 2011 for the adoption of an arms trade treaty to regulate all aspects of conventional arms trade, in full accordance with the instruments agreed and implemented under the Human Rights and Humanitarian International Law.



- Continue the work of international denunciation of unconstitutional and restrictive laws that criminalize *a priori* the person on the move.
- Promote concrete actions working together with local authorities in the fight to eradicate all forms of violence against migrants.
- Encourage local communities to create spaces that allow the right to remain in their home country as much as the right to a dignified return that guarantees settlement.
- Encourage the training processes of the social partners and local public officials that have a growing effect on the regional, national and international institutions that work in the world of the people on the move.