



INTERNATIONAL DONORS CONFERENCE
IN SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELAN
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

26th MAY 2020 #Together4Venezuelans



INTERNATIONAL DONORS CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 (26 May 2020)

1. Background

The International Donors Conference in solidarity with Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the countries of the region, in the context of COVID-19, was a follow-up to the International Conference of Solidarity on the Crisis of Refugees and Migrants of Venezuela, which was organized by the EU, together with UNHCR and IOM, in October 2019 in Brussels. The Solidarity Conference was key to raise awareness about the magnitude and seriousness of the situation and to reaffirm international solidarity with host communities and recipient countries. In addition, the need to mobilize funds and support was evident and a commitment was made to organize a Donor Conference in the first half of 2020. Spain and the EU assumed this commitment by organizing the virtual pledging conference on 26 May with the support of UNHCR-IOM, with Canada and Norway as co-conveners. This Madrid/Brussels virtual conference, the “International Donors’ Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants”, was aimed to provide financial support to national and multilateral responses to the Venezuela migrants and refugees crisis and provide visibility to the multidimensional effects in the region of the Venezuela migration crisis, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Concept and organization

- a. **Objective:** To help the countries in the region that host Venezuelan refugees and migrants and raise awareness about their situation.
- b. **Description of the crisis:** This is a displacement crisis. It is not a COVID-19 crisis, although this factor has aggravated the situation. This crisis has a humanitarian component and a development component, especially in terms of strengthening the capacities of host countries.
- c. **Aid channels:** Aid can be delivered bilaterally or multilaterally, at the donor's discretion.
- d. **Format:** Digital platform Webex-Events. Event coordinated by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Spain.



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- e. **Organizers:** Spain and the EU with the support of UNHRC and IOM, with Canada and Norway as co-conveners.
- f. **List of Invitees:** 67 invitations were sent, jointly signed by the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) of the European Commission, Josep Borrell, and by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and International Cooperation, Arancha González Laya. Including the organizers and co-conveners, 59 delegations attended the conference, 50 participants and 9 observers. The event had the virtual presence of Latin American and Caribbean countries that host Venezuelan refugees and migrants, donor countries, agencies of the United Nations System (UN), with its Secretary General intervening by video message, international financial institutions and representatives of civil society. It is worth noting the presence of two Heads of State, a Head of Government and 24 Ministers, in addition to the HR/VP, the EU commissioners for Crisis Management and for International Partnerships, the presidents of the IADB and the EIB, the presidents of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Vice-President of the World Bank for the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

(Please, see attached the list of participants and the programme of the Conference).

3. Results

- The level of **visibility of the crisis has increased**. The participants' interventions provided an analysis of the situation and the presentation of the Regional Response Plan (RMRP), revised in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. The host countries expressed their needs, challenges and progress so far. Donor countries announced their bilateral and multilateral contributions. Civil society representatives together with the Red Cross movement shared their experience in addressing the crisis.
- Donor pledges totalled €2.512 billion. This amount consisted of €577 million in grants and €1.935 billion in loans.



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Despite the difficult financial situation of donor countries due to the COVID-19 crisis, the response was very supportive. Contributing countries will choose how they channel the committed funds. Most of the resources will go to reinforce the support in hosting countries, either as humanitarian aid or as development aid. But some part of the announced funds will go towards humanitarian response within Venezuela.

(Attached is the table of pledges disaggregated by donor)

- This displacement crisis has not ended, and all stakeholders see the Solidarity Conference in Brussels and the virtual Madrid/Brussels Donors Conference as part of a longer process: **Canada** has assumed the responsibility of organizing the follow-up meeting to these conferences.
- The organizers and co-conveners released a **Joint Communiqué** at the end of the conference (*Attached*).

4. Key messages

- The **main host countries** (Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Brazil) as well as other receiving countries in Latin America outlined the impact of the presence of migrants and refugees in their countries, with special reference to their impact on the provision of public services. At the same time, they reaffirmed their commitment to their reception and integration policies, for which they insisted on the need to receive the financial support of the International Community.
- **Donor countries** appreciated the convening of the Conference and recognized the great solidarity effort made by the host countries.
- All participants highlighted the added pressure that the COVID-19 crisis represents for host countries and communities. In addition, there was consensus among all participants on the need to promote a multilateral and coordinated response that incorporates a humanitarian and development dimension, based on the solidarity with migrants and refugees and with the countries of the region.
- Some participants explicitly mentioned the obligation to continue responding to the needs of the population inside Venezuela. There were



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calls for the Venezuelan authorities to facilitate impartial and unlimited access of the humanitarian aid provided by the International Community.

- Some participants showed their commitment to the redemocratization of Venezuela as a solution to the political, economic and humanitarian crisis that the Caribbean country is suffering and to the migratory crisis derived from it. It was also mentioned that it is necessary to reach a negotiated solution among Venezuelans as the only acceptable and sustainable solution for the long-term redemocratization of the country.
- During the closing segment of the conference, the Presidents of Colombia and Ecuador, two of the Latin American countries that host the highest number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, provided a closing statement, followed by a message of support and commitment from the President of the Government of Spain.

5. Annexes

- Conference Programme;
- List of participants;
- Pledges factsheet;
- Joint Communiqué.