

**GENERAL SECRETARIAT
EXECUTIVE ORDER 18-03**

**SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE REGIONAL CRISIS CAUSED BY
VENEZUELA'S MIGRANT AND REFUGEE FLOWS**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL,

By the authority vested in him under Articles 109 and 113 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Articles 4, 8, 12, and 14 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the OAS (General Standards), and

CONSIDERING:

That the OAS is the hemispheric forum par excellence for collectively addressing major challenges in the areas of democracy, human rights, security, and development;

That the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and Their Families instructs the Organization to carry out specific activities for the protection of the human rights of migrants;

That the region has in place legal instruments for the protection of refugees, such as the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, among others, and those contained in the global agreements on migrants and refugees, which establish as a priority of the States the protection of the rights of these populations, as well as shared global responsibility;

That the social, political, economic, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has generated an exodus of millions, who have unwillingly abandoned their country, this impacting not only Venezuelans, but also the rest of the region, with alarming consequences for member states, especially those that have served as receivers of Venezuelans;

That this exodus and the precariousness of the conditions of Venezuelan migrants and refugees generate additional costs in the receiving countries, this creating an unprecedented crisis in Latin America; and

That given the urgent humanitarian nature of the crisis, it is advisable to deploy missions to the receiving countries, and to prepare a report that describes the crisis and proposes solutions, as well as other specific actions by the General Secretariat, including mobilization of resources to address the needs of Venezuelan migrants and refugees and of the receiving countries,

RESOLVES:

1. To establish a Working Group to Address the Regional Crisis Caused by Venezuelan Migrant and Refugee Flows, to be composed of experts and relevant actors with responsibility for migrant and refugee-related issues. The Coordinator of the Working Group shall be Dr. David Smolansky, and the Co-Coordinator shall be the Director of the Department of Social Inclusion, Dr. Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian.

2. One of the purposes of the Working Group shall be to produce a report that assesses the full scale of the Venezuelan migrant and refugee crisis in the region, and to launch actions to mobilize resources to address this crisis. Based on a human rights and shared responsibility approach, the report shall identify the dynamics of and reasons for the migrant and refugee flows, describe the on-site conditions of migrants and refugees, and their most immediate needs and those of the receiving communities, and the legal and humanitarian responses thus far made that may serve as solution options. The report shall also include recommendations for receiving countries to address the crisis and provide better care and protection for Venezuelan migrants and refugees, as well as regional cooperation opportunities.

3. The Working Group may consider input and support from the legitimate Supreme Court of Justice, the National Assembly, and the Office of the Attorney General of Venezuela.

4. To instruct the relevant areas of the General Secretariat to facilitate the attainment of the objectives of this Working Group, including, among others, the Strategic Counsel for Organizational Development and Management for Results.

ABROGATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE:

1. This Executive Order supersedes all contravening provisions and practices of the General Secretariat.

2. This Executive Order shall enter into force on the date of its signature.



Luis Almagro
Secretary General

Date: September 7, 2018

Original: Spanish