



OEA: Migratory crisis in Venezuela

Migration in American countries is a sociodemographic phenomenon that goes back many decades, but recently, the growth of migration between countries is causing an alarming level between their populations and governments, since migration represents obstacles that go beyond the political and socioeconomic aspects of what we can appreciate.

The process that migrants must go through is long, difficult and insecure, because people, making these journeys, face all kinds of situations, increasing the risk of the cause and of the individuals.

The attempts of the various countries and international organizations to find the root of the problem and with this the possibility of eradicating this phenomenon, have been in vain.

However, in recent years, the American states have been forced to face a new obstacle, because the conflicts that the country of Venezuela faces have surpasses the solutions that may exist, extending this uncertain situation not only to neighboring countries, but to the whole continent.

Venezuela, a country that until a few years ago was considered stable and economically fruitful in the region, today does not supply what is necessary to even feed its people. This is a truly alarming situation that requires urgent and viable solutions, which is why the Organization of American States is in need of promptly addressing this issue.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is facing an economic, political, social and health crisis for several years. Therefore, the migration problem, which has developed for these reasons, has increased alarmingly in the past year.

The country is scarce in progress and stability, and the internal problem it suffers are increasing every day, which causes Venezuelans to leave their country in search of a better quality of life, or simply because of the instinct to survive.

The main issues that affect the population the most are the shortage of basic products, due to various factors such as poverty, which are quite high, the shortage, insecurity and alarming inflation, but above all the despair of that the situation will not improve in the short term, but, on the contrary, is in clear decline.

Lack of medical attention is another of the most important factors in terms of migration, since people stop receiving the necessary care to survive, or the same route that each one makes, leave them in unfavorable health situations, already epidemic outbreaks in borders, expanding to several neighboring countries.



The migration in Venezuela, which exceeds 2.3 million people since 2014, and the 5,000 individuals who migrate daily, has alerted the Governments of America, which every day they see the arrival of more individuals to their countries so this may cause an alteration in local, economic and social systems, creating outbreaks of xenophobia. Recently the countries of Ecuador and Peru began to ask for passports from migrants to enter the country, all this is argued with the purpose of being able to give them a safe and dignified asylum.

The International Organization for Migration has asked countries to continue providing safe haven for all those migrants revealing the potential danger that, if other governments ask for passports upon entering, most Venezuelans will stay in Colombia, cause this possible failure in the Colombian migratory system.

On the other hand, the political crisis in present-day Venezuela does not help in any way the development of the population and the increase in the quality of life of the same, since it is lived under an authoritarian government, without democracy an adverse to civil society.

The last proof of this was reflected in the past presidential elections held on May 20th of this year, which would define the period 2019-2025, where the current president, Nicolas Maduro, with the victory, closes the possibility of true elections in their country and increases the desperation in it.

As for the country's financial situation, with the recent economic measure that President Maduro has taken, the crisis is expected to increase to a level never seen before in the region.

The countries that make up the Organization of American States have been an active part of this movement, serving as a refuge and protection for migrants, other have helped economically and some remain distant from the conflict, even if it affects them directly.

The present, is an international issue that has captured all the attention of the United Nations Organization and various countries, which have spoken on the matter and want to help in the migration crisis in Venezuela. Even in recent days, a dialogue group has been formed called the Regional Meeting in which 13 countries were part. This meeting began on Monday, September 3rd in Quito, Ecuador, and concluded with the signing of the Declaration of Quito. In this declaration, the participating countries agreed to focus on vulnerable groups of migrants such as children, women, people with disabilities and the elderly.

The Organization of the United Nations has officially cataloged Venezuelan migrants as refugees, which completely changes the situation of these people, from the treatment of other American countries, the legal situation in which they now find themselves, to the magnitude of the humanitarian crisis that prevails.



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) declares that Venezuelans need to be granted access to international protection and States must guarantee it and allow them to have asylum, must have the basic rights that allow them to work, and have access to health and education always remaining hospitality and generosity.

Despite the fact that UNHCR and IOM are asking for international support, there are no public policies or harmonized organizations among governments, which means that each State, in the exercise of its sovereign freedom, acted in a particular way in this situation. For this reason, it is incumbent on all member states of the organization of American States to analyze and investigate the subject, so that this conflict can be resolved promptly and peacefully, always ensuring the fulfillment of human rights and the dignity of man.

It is important that the delegations take into consideration the following questions, to make the dialogue more efficient and to arrange to definitive proposals:

- 1- Of the various causes of migration in Venezuela, is there one that stands out from others, which should be attended with greater urgency?
- 2- What security measure would be most appropriate for neighboring countries to implement in their respective borders?
- 3- Who and in what way can the outbreaks of diseases that are arising from lack of medical attention be combated?
- 4- Is there a solution that the Venezuelan government can implement to stop this phenomenon?
- 5- How can the help of the international community be obtained?
- 6- How could temporary assistance be implemented, in what is a definitive one, for the lack of food and basic products?
- 7- What public policies should Venezuela implement to end the crisis?
- 8- What have the other countries done to contribute to the progress of Venezuela? In what way can they contribute?
- 9- How far can a country or an international organization support Venezuela without affecting its sovereignty?
- 10- What effects will be caused, at a continental level, in the absence of international attention and support for Venezuelan migration?
- 11- What problems can the overpopulation of migrant's entail in the countries that receive them?
- 12- Are American countries obligated to receive refugees? In what way should they be treated and what should be granted or guaranteed to the persons allowed to enter the country as refugees?



Support Sources:

- Information Center of the Organization of American States
http://www.oas.org/es/centro_informacion
- News Center of the Organization of American States
http://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias
- News Center of the United Nations Organization
<http://www.un.org/spanish/News>
- New from the United Nations Organization
<https://news.un.org/es/>
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<http://www.acnur.org/>
- The International Organization for Migration
<https://www.iom.int/es>
- Pan-American Health Organization
https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=101&lang=es
- CNN in Spanish
<https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/tag/migracion/>
- The New York Times Spanish Edition
https://www.nytimes.com/es/?module=HomePage_Button&pgtype=Homepage
- El Universal
<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/tag/migracion-en-venezuela>

