

PRESIDENCIA

Nota FIO-Pt n.º 80/2016

Lisboa, 29 de dezembro de 2016

To
The Director General of the International
organization for Migration,
Mr. William Lacy Swing

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to write you on behalf of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen.

The Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO) - established in 1995 - is a regional network of 104 institutions such as ombudsmen, *defensores del pueblo*, commissions, councils and other public bodies devoted to the protection and promotion of human rights at the national, state, regional, provincial and local levels from 20 Ibero-American countries, including Andorra, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela, most of them members of the GANHRI (*Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions*).

At the last General Assembly of FIO, held on November 2016, the participating institutions expressed their common concern that possible changes in the immigration policies of the United States of America may have an direct impact on the Ibero-American migrants living in that country, namely on realization and enjoyment of their human rights.

Therefore, the General Assembly issued a Declaration urging States whose institutions are members of FIO to address the causes of migration in those countries and to develop serious efforts to improve national conditions of security and to non-discriminatory practices, therefore combating the migration of



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national citizens that seek new opportunities and better life standards in foreign countries.

The Declaration welcomes the development and implementation of an action plan aimed at the defense of the rights of migrants and at the protection of their families, alongside with the adoption of public policies ensuring collaboration between diplomatic representations and chancelleries in the United States of America.

We allow ourselves to share our concerns on the situation of Ibero-American migrants in the United States of America and trust your Agency shall undertake all possible endeavors to secure respect for their rights.

You may rely, Excellency, on our full cooperation and support.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

José de Faria Costa

Provedor de Justicia de Portugal

e Presidente de la Federación Iberoamericana del Ombudsman (FIO)