

7th Edition of the Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection

Human Mobility, Democratic Governance, and Social Cohesion: Strengthening Regional Responses for the Americas

September 23 - 24, 2026

1. Background

Human mobility continues to be one of the most relevant and complex dynamics facing the Americas. Mixed movements, displacement, return and reintegration processes, the effects of climate change and the challenges associated with the integration of migrant, refugee and displaced persons require increasingly coordinated, innovative and sustainable responses.

Since its creation, the Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection has established itself as a referential regional space for strengthening capacities, exchanging experiences, and promoting dialogue among governments, international organizations, academia, civil society, and other strategic actors involved in the management of human mobility.

Throughout its six editions, the Course has addressed fundamental issues related to international protection, internal displacement, integration, statelessness, human trafficking, disaster displacement, and regional cooperation, contributing to the strengthening of technical knowledge and the exchange of best practices among various actors in the hemisphere. This initiative is organized as part of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame.

The seventh edition of the course seeks to give continuity to these efforts, while proposing an evolution in the regional conversation. Beyond analyzing regulatory and protection frameworks, this edition seeks to generate a space for reflection on how to strengthen the democratic governance of human mobility, promote social cohesion, and develop effective institutional responses to contemporary challenges in the region.

Likewise, the 2026 edition coincides with the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, offering an opportunity to reflect on the relationship between democracy, institutionality, human rights, and human mobility in the Americas.

The Inter-American Course is presented by the Department of Access to Rights of the OAS and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies of the Keough School of the University of Notre Dame.

2. Justification

Today's migratory dynamics present increasingly complex challenges for the States of the region. The need to strengthen protection systems, facilitate integration and inclusion processes, promote social cohesion, respond to the challenges associated with returns, combat xenophobia and generate durable solutions for displaced persons requires comprehensive approaches that go beyond sectoral or exclusively humanitarian responses.

At the same time, human mobility has become a cross-cutting issue for public policy, with implications in areas such as local development, education, employment, human security, democratic governance and international cooperation.

In this context, it is essential to promote spaces that allow for the connection of academic evidence, practical experiences, and public policy-making processes, facilitating the exchange between those who design institutional responses, those who implement them, and those who produce knowledge about these dynamics.

The seventh edition of the Course seeks precisely to contribute to this objective, strengthening regional dialogue from a multidimensional perspective and oriented toward the implementation of solutions.

3. General Objective

To promote the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and good practices on human mobility in the Americas, strengthening the capacities of government actors, international organizations, academia, and civil society to develop democratic, inclusive, and sustainable responses to the contemporary challenges of migration, forced displacement, and integration.

3.1 Specific Objectives

- To analyze the current challenges of human mobility from a perspective of democratic governance and regional cooperation.
- Reflect on policies and programs aimed at return, reintegration and durable solutions.
- Promote the exchange of experiences on consular protection, institutional strengthening, and inter-institutional coordination.
- To generate spaces for dialogue between public policy makers, academia, international organizations, civil society and other relevant actors.
- Strengthen cooperation and learning networks between participants from different sectors and countries in the region.

4. Thematic axes

Axis 1. Human Mobility, Democracy and Regional Governance

This axis purports to address the relationship between human mobility, democratic institutions, and regional cooperation, analyzing the challenges faced by States in responding to mixed movements, displacement, and other forms of mobility in an increasingly complex regional context. Suggested Topics:

- Governance of Human Mobility in the Americas.
- Consular protection and access to rights.
- Inter-institutional coordination and comprehensive responses.
- Regional cooperation in the face of mixed movements.
- Role of regional mechanisms in dialogue and cooperation.

Axis 2. Integration, Social Cohesion and Territorial Responses

This axis proposes to explore experiences and policies aimed at strengthening the inclusion of migrants, refugees and displaced persons in host communities, promoting social cohesion and coexistence. Suggested Topics:

- Socioeconomic integration.
- Social cohesion and building inclusive communities.
- Public narratives about migration.
- Prevention of xenophobia and discrimination.
- Local governments and territorial responses.

Axis 3. Return, Reintegration and Durable Solutions

This axis proposes to analyze the challenges and opportunities associated with return and reintegration processes, incorporating gender perspectives and comparative experiences from different countries in the region. Suggested Topics:

- Return and reintegration policies.
- Community reintegration and local development.
- Gender and Return Processes.
- Evidence and experiences from academia.
- Durable solutions for displaced people.

Axis 4. Resilience, Innovation and Cooperation for the Future

This axis proposes to examine emerging trends and innovative mechanisms to strengthen the response capacity of States and other actors to face the future challenges of human mobility.

Suggested Topics:

- Displacement due to disasters and climate change.
- Institutional innovation.
- International cooperation and financing.
- Partnerships with the private sector.
- Experiences from MIRPS and other regional mechanisms.

5. Methodology

The seventh edition will combine keynote presentations, panel discussions, case studies, interactive dialogues and spaces for exchange between participants.

In order to strengthen the practical nature of the Course, the presentation of concrete experiences, lessons learned and implementation models developed by governments, international organizations, academia and civil society organizations will be promoted.

Spaces designed to facilitate networking and the exchange of knowledge between participants from different sectors and countries will also be incorporated.

6. Expected Results

- Strengthening of technical and strategic capacities on human mobility.
- Regional exchange of experiences and good practices.
- Greater coordination between governmental, academic and operational actors.
- Generation of cooperation and learning networks.
- Consolidation of the Inter-American Course as a hemispheric space for dialogue, innovation, and the development of solutions to the challenges of human mobility in the Americas.

7. General Information

Date: Wednesday, September 23 and Thursday, September 24, 2025

Duration: 16 academic hours, delivered over two consecutive days, including a one-hour lunch break

Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (EST)

Place: OAS General Secretariat Building, 1889 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Padilha Vidal Room, TL Floor

Languages: The course will be taught in Spanish and English, with simultaneous interpretation in both languages.

8. Program

Day 1: Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Human Mobility, Democratic Governance and Social Cohesion

09:30 – 10:00 Registration of participants

10:00 – 10:30 Opening Remarks

10:30 – 11:15 Keynote

Keynote lecture on human mobility, democratic governance and regional cooperation. This session proposes a reflection on the evolution of human mobility dynamics in the Americas and

the challenges they pose for democratic governance, regional cooperation, and institutional strengthening. It could serve as a conceptual framework for the discussions of the two days.

11:15 - 12:30 Panel 1. Governance of Human Mobility in the Americas: Regional Responses to Shared Challenges

This panel aims to analyze how States, international organizations and regional mechanisms are responding to the challenges arising from mixed movements, forced displacement and other forms of human mobility. The discussion could include topics such as regional cooperation, consular protection, inter-institutional coordination, and strengthening state capacities to manage comprehensive responses.

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break (Lunch at participants' expense)

13:30 – 14:45 Panel 2. Socioeconomic Integration and Social Cohesion: Building Inclusive Communities

This panel proposes examining experiences and policies aimed at promoting the integration of migrant, refugee and displaced persons in host communities. The panel could address issues related to access to employment, education, public services, community participation and strategies to strengthen social cohesion in contexts of increasing diversity.

14:45 – 15:00 Break

15:00 – 16:15 Panel 3. Public Narratives, Evidence and Social Perception of Migration

This panel aims to generate a dialogue between academia, governments and civil society about the impact of public narratives on the perception of migrant and refugee persons. The discussion could incorporate recent evidence on xenophobia, disinformation, strategic communication, and successful experiences in promoting more inclusive societies.

16:15 – 17:30 Experiences Table. Territorial Responses and Frontline Actors

This proposed space is aimed at learning about practical experiences developed by local governments, community organizations, shelters, civil society organizations and other actors that work directly with the migrant and displaced population. The objective would be to bring participants closer to concrete experiences of implementation and territorial management.

17:30 – 18:00 Exchange and Networking Space

Activity aimed at strengthening links between participants, facilitators, academia, international organizations and public policy makers.

Day 2: Thursday, September 24, 2026

Return, Durable Solutions and Institutional Resilience

10:00 – 10:30 Introductory Session

Reflection on emerging trends and future challenges for human mobility in the Americas.

10:30 – 11:45 Panel 4. Sustainable Return and Reintegration: Challenges for Public Policy

This panel aims to analyze regional experiences related to return and reintegration processes, identifying challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities to strengthen institutional responses that facilitate the economic, social, and community reintegration of returnees.

11:45 – 12:45 Panel 5. Gender, Human Mobility and Reintegration Processes

This panel aims to incorporate a differentiated perspective on the impacts of human mobility and return processes on women, girls, and other vulnerable groups, exploring approaches, programs, and good practices that contribute to more inclusive responses.

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch break (Lunch at the expense of the participants)

13:45 – 15:00 Panel 6. Durable Solutions and Regional Cooperation: Lessons from the Americas

This panel aims to examine progress, challenges and opportunities in the search for durable solutions for displaced persons, including experiences promoted by regional mechanisms, national governments and international organizations. This space could also serve to reflect on the role of initiatives such as MIRPS in the construction of sustainable responses.

15:00 – 15:15 Break

15:15 – 16:15 Panel 7. Climate Change, Disasters and Human Mobility: Preparing for the Challenges of the Future

This session aims to discuss how the effects of climate change and disasters are transforming human mobility patterns in the region and what kind of institutional, regulatory and cooperative responses will be needed to strengthen the resilience of States and communities.

16:15 – 17:15 High-Level Panel. Partnerships for the Future of Human Mobility in the Americas

This panel proposes a strategic conversation on the role of international cooperation, the private sector, academia, civil society and other key actors in building innovative and sustainable responses to the challenges of human mobility facing the region.

17:15 – 17:45 Conclusion session

Identification of key messages, lessons learned, and final reflections.

17:45 – 18:00 Closing