

**UNHCR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs
1-3 JULY 2015 – International Conference Center Geneva**

**REGIONAL SESSION AMERICAS
Thursday 2 July 2015 – 14h30 – 16h15 – Room 6**

BACKGROUND PAPER

**Differentiated approach:
Multiple pathways to solutions in the Americas**

No individual shall be a refugee, displaced or stateless person for life. Ending displacement and statelessness and ensuring the full respect of the rights of these individuals is the ultimate goal of protection. The Americas fully subscribes to this statement and invests considerably to develop avenues to find solutions to end the plight of persons of concern in the region.

This session will detail various traditional as well as innovative approaches to solutions in the Americas. Voluntary repatriation, local integration, solidarity resettlement, innovative labour mobility schemes with built-in protection safeguards and solutions for the reacquisition of nationality are among the multiple pathways that aim at one single goal: The promotion of a systemic and comprehensive approach to solutions that will look at all available options and context.

Panelists from the civil society will present specific examples of livelihoods projects fostering local integration for refugees in rural areas in Ecuador, the challenges to resolve the nationality issues in the Dominican Republic and on opportunities for starting a new life through protection-sensitive migration pathways in Brazil. Moreover, the peculiar situation that refugees faces in border areas will be also presented. Through these illustrations the session will provide for a platform for cross-fertilization that builds on the practical knowhow and expertise of the civil society with the aim of sharing the experiences on how stateless persons, refugees and IDPs can restore their lives in safety and dignity and fully exercise their fundamental human rights in Latin America. Today, these persons in search for a solution can count on an elaborated set of programs contained in the comprehensive solutions chapter of the 2014 Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action, a document that was developed in close coordination with civil society actors.

Moderator

Ms. Renata Dubini, Director, Bureau for the Americas

Panellists

Mr. Bill Navarrete, Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (CDH), Ecuador, *Refugee integration in Ecuador*

Father Mario Serrano Marte, S.J., National Director Social Sector Jesuites, Dominican Republic, *Solutions for stateless individuals*

Ms. Larissa Leite, Legal Adviser, Caritas Arquidiocesana de Sao Paulo, Brazil, *Labor Mobility Schemes for Refugees in Brazil*

Ms. Nancy Perez, Sin Fronteras, Mexico, *Solutions in border areas in the Americas*