



Media Release  
October 24, 2006  
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“Sooner, better than later, we must find a rational solution to immigration,” Ted Cruz, Texas Solicitor General and former domestic policy advisor to President Bush, told a two-day Symposium convened by the North America Institute (NAMI) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Participants from Mexico, the United States and Canada discussed a wide range of possible policy responses to the urgent problems involving migration throughout North America. “Building bridges, not walls,” said NAMI President, Paul Maxwell, “must be our primary goal to make North America a prosperous and peaceful place for all of us.”

Speaking on the opening panel, Geronimo Gutierrez, Mexico’s Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, stressed the responsibility that the Mexican Government has toward providing alternatives to migration for its citizens. “But, it is a shared responsibility,” he offered, “because our citizens contribute so productively to the well-being of the U.S. economy.”

Participants discussed the potential value of migrants’ remittances as a source of investment in Mexico, the success that Canada has had with its temporary labor program, and the ways in which all three countries are working together at local, state and provincial levels to increase public safety and security at the two borders within North America. The Symposium focused its attention on policies that would affect institutional improvements in areas such as access to healthcare, labor rights, banking rules, and border security that promise to help make migration productive for the entire region.

The Symposium, which ends today at Hotel Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM, will share its ideas on migration policies with decision-makers throughout the region. In months ahead, NAMI will also continue to encourage open, constructive dialogue on these urgent and crucial issues by hosting online discussions and convening other opportunities for debate.

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North American Institute  
Migration in North America Symposium  
October 23-23, 2006  
Hotel Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM