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**"THE INTERVENTION OF CANADA REGARDING THE WELCOMING OF
SYRIAN REFUGEES WITHIN THE PERIOD OF 2014 - 2015"**

**GRADUATE THESIS PRIOR TO OBTAINING A BILINGUAL BACHELOR IN
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MINOR IN FOREIGN TRADE**

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1. DEDICATION:

In the realization of this ideal fundamental in my life being home the transcendental cornerstone, a constant fire of full execution for whom I dedicate this thesis:

First, to God for allowing me through his guidance and blessing to fulfill one of the most important goals in my life in the culmination of my student years, to my parents who with their unconditional love have motivated me tirelessly in this arduous and fruitful work and to all my family and loved ones for their constant support always.

VERONICA.

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RESUMEN

El primer capítulo trata esencialmente de los conceptos generales y el marco teórico correspondiente a la tesis, en el cual se hablará del derecho y las leyes internacionales que protegen a los refugiados, los organismos internacionales que tienen injerencia hacia estas personas desplazadas, las leyes nacionales de los refugiados dentro de Canadá, así como la presentación de planes y casos similares.

El segundo capítulo será dedicado especialmente al diagnóstico y descripción del Plan de Acogida canadiense hacia los refugiados sirios, cuáles han sido las causas y motivos principales para el surgimiento de este plan de acción y se mencionará a breves rasgos la realidad de Siria precedente a este éxodo migratorio enfocados en el aspecto tanto económico como social.

Finalmente, el tercer capítulo tratará acerca de las condiciones de vida de los refugiados sirios reubicados en Canadá actualmente, cuáles han sido los beneficios reales adquiridos desde su llegada y como parte importante dentro de esta investigación y análisis se hablará de las posturas que han adoptado los demás Estados frente a la situación siria haciendo hincapié en el caso de Ecuador.

ABSTRACT

The first chapter deals essentially with the general concepts and the theoretical framework corresponding to the thesis which will discuss the rights and international laws that protect refugees, international organizations advocating humanitarian intervention for these displaced persons, national laws for refugees within Canada as well as the presentation of similar plans and cases. The second chapter will focus on the diagnosis and description of the Canadian Welcome Plan (#WelcomeRefugees) for the Syrian refugees, which were the main causes and motives for the development of this plan of action and will briefly mention the reality of Syria preceding this migration focused on both economic and social aspects. Finally, the third chapter will deal with the living conditions of the currently relocated Syrian refugees in Canada, what have been the real benefits acquired since their arrival and as an important part within this research and analysis, the positions adopted by the other States against the Syrian situation with emphasis on the position of Ecuador.

KEYWORDS

Refugees, migration, international cooperation, human rights, reception, assistance, protection, displaced (persons), Syria, Canada.

1. CHAPTER 1: GENERAL CONCEPTS - THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:

1.1 Introduction:

The purpose of this chapter is to make known the main regulations, conventions and norms regulating refugees at the international level as national (Canada), as well as the existing normative bodies where the laws are exemplified and how they must be fulfilled by States within the international community, considering the rights and obligations of each subject that conforms to international law. It will also analyze the role of those international organizations that have intervened in this social phenomenon of refugees, specifically those from Syria, establishing the requirements and conditions that must be met to be considered as such and finally display cases and plans like the Canadian plan: "#WelcomeRefugees".

1.2 International Law:

Per the United Nations (UN), "International Law" is the set of legal rules that have as their fundamental objective, to contribute to the relations between the different States being as orderly and congruent as possible, to establish peace, security and international cooperation between them. In addition, it clearly defines responsibilities as the legal rights adopted by the States regarding their way of proceeding with other countries and the treatment they provide to persons within state borders. Its domain encompasses a very broad scope of issues of international concern, such as human rights, disarmament, international crime, refugees, immigration, nationality problems, the treatment of prisoners, the use of force and how to act in the war, among others; as well as regularizing issues related to the world heritage, such as the environment, sustainable development, international waters, outer space, global communities and world trade (UN).

International law is considered a relatively new branch, but it is an extremely important type of law, since it exceeds the national borders of a specific State or region and therefore must be respected by all States or entities that form part of the international community seeking to safeguard security and safeguard the general interest and the common good (UN).

1.2.1 Human Rights:



Image N ° 1: Elaborated by "The Herald" (2014), Fundamental Human Rights

<http://www.cualesonlosderechoshumanos.com/>

Within "International Law", one of the topics of transcendental importance within the international community and the States that comprise it are human rights, "these rights, which are inherent in all human beings, whatever their nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status, are interrelated, interdependent and indivisible" (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights).

It is substantial to mention that the "International Law" relating to human rights, constitutes "the obligations of governments of every nation to take certain measures in certain situations, or refrain from acting in a certain way to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms established and guaranteed by law for individuals or groups "(Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights). The United Nations maintains that within human rights, there are civil and political rights, such as the right to life with which each human being counts as an inalienable right, equality before the law taking into account that all are equal without race, religion or nationality and freedom of

expression where each individual has the absolute right to express his or her thoughts; economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right to work, social security and education; or collective rights, such as the right to development and self-determination, being of universal application and validity. It is said that these rights are interrelated and interdependent since the progress of some facilitates the progress of others, so on the contrary the deprivation of one right affects others in a partial way.

On the other hand, it is important to mention that humanitarian law and international law, despite being two distinct branches that make up public international law, have a common purpose which is the protection of the human being. Humanitarian law protects fundamental human rights in extreme situations, such as armed conflicts, while in situations of unrest and other characterized scenarios of violence that have not been adequately covered by humanitarian law, there should be recourse to international humanitarian law and certain fundamental humanitarian principles, as why these two areas should be considered as complementary. To this, it is convenient to add the rights of refugees, being the main theme of this investigation, since it essentially seeks to fulfill the same purpose as the previous ones, which is to protect and provide legal and institutional security for those persons whom for various circumstances have had to leave their country to other places to protect their integrity and enforce their fundamental human rights (International Committee of the Red Cross).

1.2.1.1 Rights and Obligations:

Human rights include both rights and obligations for States and individuals, in which the various subjects that form part of international law assume these obligations and duties in order to respect, protect and fulfill fully all those rights that are considered as fundamental principles. "The obligation to respect them means that States must refrain from interfering with or limiting the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect them requires that States prevent human rights abuses against individuals and groups. The obligation to fulfill them means that States must take positive steps to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights. At the individual level, just as we must respect our human rights, we must also respect the human rights of others" (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights).

1.2.2 Rights of Refugees:

Currently, the refugee phenomenon has become one of the most serious problems in recent times, as thousands of people around the world have had to move from their home country to other places in search of a better quality of life and legal security; for this reason, some states have opened their borders and have welcomed these people from other nations to provide them protection and stability economically but above all socially, based on the fundamental pillar and respect for human rights and respect that every human being possesses and is previously established in the law. It is essential to mention that according to the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees, a refugee is a person who "because of well-founded fears of persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fears, not to avail himself of the protection of his country; or lacking a nationality and being, as a result of such events outside the country where he had his habitual residence, cannot or because of such fears he does not want to return" (UNHCR). One of the main reasons why a person is forced to become a refugee is when one or more of their human rights are threatened within their country of origin having to flee to another in search of such rights. The infraction on human rights is one of the causes for this mass exodus at the world level. It is noteworthy to point out that no one chooses to be or become a refugee since this condition goes beyond being a mere foreigner; it involves living in exile and relies heavily on a third party, in this case the government of the country to which they decide to go, in order to meet certain basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, etc. "While most people can go to their own governments to guarantee and protect their fundamental human rights and physical integrity, refugees have no such possibility. Moreover, their country of origin has proved incapable or not willing to protect such rights" (UNHCR).

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 establishes in its first article that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and, endowed as they are of reason and conscience, they should behave fraternally with one another; Therefore, the duty of States is to provide assistance among them through international cooperation, which in this case is the opening of their borders to those people who are in unfavorable conditions and not very equal for their survival. Likewise, any person who is in a place characterized

by living in constant situations of war and strong confrontations for political, religious or economic reasons where his physical security is not clearly guaranteed, has the absolute right to move to another country to safeguard his life and recover his substantial security. Considering the provisions of article thirteen of said Declaration, it is important to note that every person has the right to move freely and to choose his residence in the territory of a State that suits him best; In addition, everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country at any time he deems appropriate. On the other hand, Article 14 of the Declaration, in its first paragraph, establishes the fundamental right of refugees at an international level, stating that "in the event of persecution, everyone has the right to seek and enjoy asylum, in any country" (OHCHR).

1.2.3 International Protection for Refugees:

The international protection that the various subjects of international law, such as States or certain international organizations, provide to these so-called refugees goes beyond mere protection to their physical integrity, since it involves protection of their fundamental human rights. Refugees at the moment of leaving their country of origin take with them the risk of starting a new life outside their national borders, which implies obtaining a job, a place to live and a certain social stability where they can be fully developed which means that they must receive at least the same rights and basic assistance as a foreigner and even the same rights as the citizens of the place where they immigrated; these rights include civil rights, including freedom of thought and movement, as well as the right not to be subjected to torture or to degrading treatment. With regard to economic and social rights, refugees have the same rights as any other individual, since they are on equal terms with each other and should not be discriminated against.

Among the rights to which refugees have access are the right to medical care and one of transcendental importance such as the right to schooling for children since education is a basic right to which all must attend; this is why no refugee child should be left without proper academic training or schooling, let alone be pushed into situations that detract from their integrity and human dignity as in the case of prostitution, or necessarily join the army or other jobs that endanger their security, both physical and moral. "There are certain circumstances in which countries of asylum, so-called refugee or asylum-seeking countries, are forced to restrict to some extent certain rights, such as freedom of movement, right to

work or the access of children to adequate schooling, for example when there is a massive influx of refugees into that territory, the international community should, as far as possible, try to fill certain gaps. In addition, where there is a lack of self-sufficiency or even no resources from the governments of countries of asylum or other bodies actively involved in the refugee the international community must also make every effort to protect the human rights of refugees and to enable them to function in an equal manner. On the other hand, refugees are not exempt from obligations and duties to be fulfilled, since in particular they must respect fully as any citizen plus the laws and regulations established in their country of asylum "(UNHCR).

The international body directly responsible for regulating all matters relating to refugees is "The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (UNHCR), which is not intended to be a supranational organization or to supplement the protection provided by a State to these refugees but their role is to establish certain measures that must be adopted by States and to ensure that they comply with their obligations towards refugees and asylum seekers, providing them with comprehensive protection and systematically cooperating with this body of which will be discussed in more detail below. Another basic obligation that States must fulfill, as the main subjects of international law, is to not expel or return these persons to any country or place where they are at risk, including the same country from which they are fleeing; "Finally, for humanitarian reasons they must allow the admission of at least the spouse and dependent children of any person to whom refugee status has been recognized" (UNHCR).

It is essential to note that the "United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (UNHCR) greatly assists refugees who cannot meet their own basic needs. "Such assistance may be provided in the form of economic subsidies, food, equipment such as cooking, hygiene and housing utensils; or in form of programs to build schools and clinics for refugees living in camps or other communal groups. UNHCR will make every effort to ensure that refugees can become self-reliant as quickly as possible through the promotion of income-generating activities or the establishment of workshops and teaching-oriented programs of new techniques that contribute significantly to their survival and inclusion within a new society" (UNHCR).

1.2.4 The 1951 Refugee Convention on the Status of Refugees:

Taking into consideration that all human beings have the same fundamental rights and freedoms, which have been previously expressed in several international conventions and treaties, as well as the effort and deep interest invested by the international community to ensure and fully enforce these rights are extended to all persons, especially refugees, who by their status are considered vulnerable to others, international law has created certain norms and laws whose primary objective is to directly protect these persons and to ensure that States and other subjects that comprise it recognize the social and humanitarian character towards them, thus establishing the "Refugee Convention of 1951", in which there are codified provisions that the contracting States must adopt and fulfill. This Convention is the most important body of legislation in this area, since it is a basic guide for States and has become a key foundation on which certain guarantees aimed at this group of people need to restore the protection towards their human rights that have been violated. Among the fundamental principles underlying the "Refugee Convention of 1951" are freedom and equality among all human beings around the world, which is why article four states that "Contracting States that have decided to adopt the rules and standards contained in this Convention and apply them within their domestic legal system, should accord refugees found on their territory treatment at least as favorable as that accorded to their nationals with respect to the strict freedom to practice their religion, the freedom of religious instruction to their children, so it is substantial that those States that have concluded to jointly accept the refugees by opening their borders should apply it as established" (Refugee Convention). On the other hand, it is important to know that a person receiving the name of refugee and being welcomed by a country, in addition to respecting the laws and regulations established therein, must accept accordingly the position they occupy within the new society in which they are, which is why article twelve of the Convention provides that "the personal status of each refugee shall be governed by the law of the country of his domicile or, in the absence of domicile, shall be in accordance with the law of the country of residence. Likewise, rights which have previously been acquired by each refugee and are dependent on the personal status of each one, especially the rights inherent in marriage, shall be respected by each Contracting State, if the right in question

would have been legally recognized by the domestic law of the respective State and if the person concerned had not been a refugee" (Convention on the Status of Refugees).

As to the continuity of residence of each refugee in the country of refuge in which he is, Article ten mentions that "when a refugee has been deported during the Second World War and has been transferred to the territory of a Contracting State and resides in it, the period of such forced stay shall be considered as legal residence in such territory. However, where a refugee has been, specifically during the Second World War, deported from the territory of a Contracting State and has returned to the territory prior to the entry in force of this Convention for the purpose of establishing his residence there, the time of residence precedent and subsequent to such deportation shall be considered as an uninterrupted period, in all cases where such "Convention on the Status of Refugees" is required. It is important to consider that each country has its internal legislation that regulates the conduct and action of each individual that is within its territory, whether national or foreign, for which reason the period of residence that each refugee has in the country that it will depend greatly on what its internal rules and regulations have always been based on this Convention.

One of the benefits and rights of significant importance that international law together with refugees seek to protect is the obtaining of employment within the country where they are living, since they need to generate income for their subsistence and even more if it is of a refugee family; Article seventeen of the present Convention speaks of this very important right which clearly states that "every Contracting State shall accord to refugees lawfully within its territory equal treatment and under the same circumstances as its own nationals, will give the opportunity to carry out labor activities that generate such economic income. With reference to the application of preventive measures towards the employment of aliens to protect the industry and the national labor market of the Contracting State, they shall not apply to refugees since they are exempt from these measures from the date on which this Convention goes into effect for that State, or that meets one of the following conditions: have completed three years of residence in the country; have a spouse who holds the nationality of the country of residence, where the refugee cannot invoke the benefits of this provision if he / she has abandoned his / her spouse; have one or more children who hold the nationality of the country of residence. Likewise, the Contracting States shall give due

consideration to the assimilation of the rights of refugees to the rights of nationals in all matters relating to the occupation of paid employment, substantially for those refugees who have entered the territorial constituency of such States by virtue of labor recruitment programs or immigration plans "Convention on the Status of Refugees".

For those refugees who have entered illegally and without the prior authorization of the competent authorities, article thirty-one of the Convention provides that "Contracting States shall not impose any penal sanctions on refugees who have entered their country illegally, arriving directly from the territory from which they are fleeing because their fundamental human rights have been violated and where their life or freedom are being threatened in accordance with the provisions of article one, provided that they appear without delay in dealing with the authorities and stating in a sustained manner the duly justified cause of their illegal entry or presence in such country. Likewise, the Contracting States shall not apply other traffic restrictions than necessary, which shall be used only until the situation of these refugees has been regularized in the country or until they have been granted the right to stay in another territory. As a token of cooperation and international assistance, the Contracting States shall grant such refugees a reasonable period of time and all the necessary facilities to enable them to obtain such admission in another country without leaving them unprotected or abandoned "Convention on the Status of Refugees".

In addition, based on what the international law has determined through the provisions that are established in this Convention, article thirty-two makes reference to the issue of expulsion concerning refugees, for which it has been considered necessary to recall that refugees are particularly characterized as benefiting from the protection afforded to them by the international community through States and certain special agencies whose mission is to protect and keep them in their territory for as long as necessary without a priority alternative of expulsion with certain exceptions, since they would be jeopardizing their fundamental rights, so far as "the Contracting States shall not expel any refugee legally present in the territory of such States, except for reasons of national security or public order. The expulsion of the refugee will only be carried out, in such case, by virtue of a decision taken in accordance with the legal procedures that are fully in force; unless imperative reasons of national security are opposed to it, the refugee must be allowed to present exculpatory evidence, make the corresponding appeal and be represented to that

effect before the competent authority or the persons designated by them for the purpose, in which case refugees, should be granted a reasonable period of time within which to legally manage their admission to another country, reserving the right to apply within such period the internal measures they deem necessary. Likewise, every State has the possibility to convert a foreigner into a national through the due process of naturalization, which implies the fulfillment of certain essential requirements to adopt such modality. In the case of refugees, the Contracting State shall predominantly facilitate all assimilation and the naturalization process itself by accelerating the relevant procedures and reducing as much as possible the costs related to the process in order to ensure the indefinite stay of refugees in the country "Convention on the Status of Refugees".

1.3 International Organizations that have Intervened with Refugees:

The existence of international organizations within the international community is essential and of paramount importance, since in addition to regulating the relations between the different subjects that make up international law, they function mainly as a mechanism of sovereign and independent States that may only act according to the instructions and decisions previously granted by the Member States. Today, the world is surrounded by various problems that directly affect international peace and security of States, problems such as poverty, unemployment, international crime, environmental degradation, drug trafficking, international migration, refugees, violation of human rights, among others. The same can be attacked effectively by implementing international cooperation, a principle which is imparted by the presence of such international organizations that enable active participation of the international community in solving these disputes. International organizations provide their assistance and cooperation in economic, political, social and legal areas, through actions that have a primary purpose of welfare and progress of the States of the international community, based on the protection of the fundamental human rights of its citizens.

1.3.1 The United Nations (UN):



Image No. 2: Elaborated by "United Nations Organization".

<http://www.un.org/es/sections/about-un/un-logo-and-flag/index.html>

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization consisting of 193 independent and sovereign countries, which have joined voluntarily and freely to it, in order to work together and work together for world peace, promote friendship among all nations, support economic and social progress and combat poverty and injustice in the world. This organization was officially born on October 24, 1945 with 51 member countries that decided to sign the "United Nations Charter" in World War II, becoming the most important document that makes the organization; the letter was signed in 1945 in the city of San Francisco in the United States and is intended as a guide or framework to ensure the safety of people and the entire international community. The United Nations (UN) is a permanent global forum used to discuss and analyze all conflicts that arise daily between Member States through their governments because these problems pose a threat to international peace and security; it is important to stress that the work of this organization is a much more extensive and complex dispute resolution, as the decisions made within it have a global condition and a decisive influence on the life of human beings worldwide (Information Centre of the United Nations).

The United Nations (UN) focuses its work towards several aspects of concern to humanity, so that together with its agencies and internal organizations they can help among other things to strengthen economies and stabilize financial markets within the international community, to provide social support against certain emergencies of international crisis;

also it promotes measures for the elderly, disabled and indigenous considered vulnerable and primarily protects refugees, displaced persons and others affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods or storms or caused by man such as wars and armed conflicts through refugee agency called "United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (UNHCR), providing assistance and international protection of their human rights that have been terribly violated in exchange for a better life and full security to their integrity. According to the "United Nations Charter" all those countries that have within their domestic legal systems, as a fundamental characteristic, preserving peace and welfare of its citizens and are able to meet all obligations under it can be members (Information Centre of the United Nations).

1.3.1.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):



Image No. 3: Elaborated by "United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

<http://www.acnur.org/>

In recent years, the world is experiencing a growing crisis of dozens of refugees around the world, because every day there are more people who must make the difficult decision is to leave home in search of a better life. In recent years the number of people who have been forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in another country has grown significantly; the reasons why people migrate are diverse and often quite complex, because there are people who move to other countries to improve their economic situation or to continue their education, but refugees are mainly characterized by people who are in the obligation to leave their country to escape abuses that go against human rights such as torture, persecution, armed conflict, extreme poverty and even death. This is why the international community has considered refugees as vulnerable people; they have seen the urgent need to establish a specialized agency providing assistance to them, being the case of "United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (UNHCR), which was established on December

14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly, since this organization has managed to extend their help and support tens of millions of people so they can then resume their lives in other places where their fundamental human rights are respected and safeguarded (Amnesty International).

This agency has the mandate to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees worldwide. Its main objective revolves around safeguarding the rights and welfare of refugees and ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum in another state and enjoy it, seeks to identify durable solutions for refugees, including voluntary repatriation in decent conditions, and integration into the host society or resettlement in a third country. UNHCR also has within its provisions to help stateless people globally and acts as an international observer regarding matters relating to asylum and refugees (UNHCR). According to data provided by this international organization of protection for refugees, more than 60 million people have left their country or have become displaced. Similarly, a very large number of people have been forced to leave their homes for economic reasons and migrate in search of a better life; today, the "United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (UNHCR) has a team of approximately 9,700 people established in 126 countries, which continue to help respectively and provide protection to more than 60 million refugees, returnees, internally displaced and stateless people worldwide (Amnesty International).

Internationally, the team that makes up the organization's mission is to ensure the right of refugees among all persons acting directly or indirectly in the scope of protection to them, such as border officials, journalists, NGOs, attorneys, judges and senior government officials. On the other hand, locally, they seek to undertake actions and corresponding efforts in order to protect refugees through a wide variety of activities such as: "reinstating refugee camps away from border areas to better security conditions; responding effectively to deal with emergency situations where refugees are located; primarily by ensuring that refugee women participate equitably in food distribution and social services; constantly informing refugees on the current situation of their country of origin so that they can make the right decision and accurate return; properly and legally advising governments on draft laws, policies and practices concerning refugees but especially in fighting tirelessly to reunite separated families and provide the opportunity for a new life. In addition, in all its

activities, the “United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees” (UNHCR) pays special attention and consideration to the needs of children, seniors and people with disabilities and also seeks to promote prevailing ways equal rights of women and girls for which, because of their gender, are wrongly considered inferior (UNHCR).

As the “United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees” (UNHCR), the main and most important humanitarian and social organization within the international community, which has twice received the “Nobel Peace Prize”, lies essentially in providing international protection to refugees through the constant search for viable and lasting solutions where these people can usually come into a new society and live in decent and safe conditions. International protection by UNHCR, is reflected in ensuring respect for basic and fundamental human rights of refugees in the country that has hosted, which means they cannot be returned forcibly or involuntarily to where they fled because of having a well-founded fear of persecution (principle of non-refoulement), this protection ends only when the organization helps these people to repatriate to their countries of origin if circumstances permit or otherwise integrate adequately to their countries of refuge or if applicable to resettle in a third country, as mentioned above; on the other hand, UNHCR monitors States continuously to fulfill certain provisions to refugees through the actions of their governments in an attempt to grant the above protection and try to minimize the threat of violence in the world, including sexual assault, to which many refugees are clearly exposed to even in countries of asylum for their vulnerability (UNHCR).

It is important to emphasize that the “United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees” (UNHCR) has evolved gradually over time, from a relatively small specialized agency to an organization with more than 120 offices around the world and with an annual budget of billions of dollars oriented not only to provide legal protection but also material assistance in large-scale emergencies and the capacity to cater for groups of increasingly diverse people who are considered dispossessed by not having the protection of their own State. Being a fairly specific definition of the term refugee, it covers only those who for compelling reasons have fled their country and sought asylum in another respectively; however, there are millions of people in situations of equal gravity that do not legally qualify as refugees and, therefore, are not attributed normal due aid or protection. In addition to refugees, there are certain individuals who are considered as internally displaced

persons (IDP), since despite having fled their homes, usually because of civil wars, have not been mobilized to other countries but have remained in their own, to these people, as a humanitarian agency, UNHCR provides assistance to approximately 17.6 million of these internally displaced persons; there is an estimated presence of more than 28 million of them worldwide (UNHCR).

This organization operates in various places around the world, from the grandest capitals and major cities to the most remote and difficult to reach locations. The offices are located in major donor countries and in those places, that have a greater influx of refugees; UNHCR staff works closely with the governments of the countries of refuge to ensure direct assistance and protection to the most vulnerable victims of displacement. Most of the workers are located in Asia and Africa, for being the continents hosting the largest number of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide. Many of these refugees are in isolated and dangerous areas where the staff work under difficult and unsafe conditions; among the main countries of operation are Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Pakistan, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq (UNHCR).

1.3.2 Refugee Accreditation Process:

An essential requirement for accreditation and recognition as a refugee is the respective "Refugee Status Determination" process, which is a legal or administrative procedure by which persons seeking international protection as a refugee, are properly analyzed by governments or UNHCR to determine if they meet all the requirements to be considered as such, under the protection of international, regional or national standards. In the first instance, it is governments that have primary responsibility for carrying out the entire procedure for determining the status of asylum seekers and if the governments are not in the condition to do so or just do not want to UNHCR, can do so, which is why it has now been entrusted with carrying out these "Refugee Status Determination" procedures in more countries and for a greater number of people, since in recent years they have significantly increased the number of refugee individuals and patterns of forced displacement around the world. In the year 2013, UNHCR recorded its highest historical record of individual asylum applications reaching 203,200 cases making it the second largest organization for the "Refugee Status Determination" at the global level (UNHCR).

UNHCR, as an agency specialized in providing assistance to refugees, continues to actively explore and implement new standards and measures to improve equity, quality and, above all, the efficiency in its operations for determining refugee status in as little time as possible, avoiding delays and complications in the resolution of the cases presented for the protection and assistance requested by the persons of interest. Similarly, UNHCR, within its various activities, works simultaneously with governments and other partners under previously established regulations to ensure that the decisions taken are in favor of all persons who are asylum seekers, improving and strengthening appropriate procedures; Despite the fact that States have the priority of attending and carrying out the due process of accreditation in order to determine whether a person is considered a refugee or not, it has been the UNHCR that has continued to be primarily responsible for resolving such cases, whether working individually or in parallel with governments.

To verify that the procedures "Refugee Status Determination" are harmonious, efficient and of quality, from receipt and registration of applications pending resolution of the case, there is a regulation that has been established by UNHCR which serves as a guide and reference to properly diagnose whether a person can be considered as a refugee or not and under what parameters should they be given protection or the assistance required; this regulation is known as the "Procedural Standards for Refugee Status Determination under UNHCR's Mandate", the same that was published in 2003 and since then is under constant review to determine the progress and legal results that have been achieved through it. These procedural norms have been progressively implemented within the international community with the sole objective of providing comprehensive assistance to the displaced. With the same aim of strengthening the effectiveness of refugee determination procedures, "UNHCR" develops and provides specialized training on these issues to officials responsible for such procedures, both by UNHCR and governments and other persons or bodies involved in asylum operations, and supports the development and implementation of Quality Assurance Initiatives at both the country and regional levels (UNHCR).

Considering that the "Refugee Status Determination" is an essential process to provide the required assistance and protection, it is important to note that it is governments that define sovereignly the procedures necessary for the determination of refugee status, including the determination of legal status and the benefits or rights that correspond to them based on

their own legal system; UNHCR, as part of its mandate, advocates that these governments adopt a more agile and flexible process taking into account the difficulty of certifying refugee status and respecting considerably the decisions taken by States, provided that they do not go against the fundamental human rights of those displaced persons (UNHCR).

1.3.2.1 Procedural Standards for Refugee Status Determination under UNHCR's Mandate:

The determination of refugee status is a major function which has as its fundamental objective to enable UNHCR to analyze and identify which of the asylum applications submitted satisfactorily meet all the requirements and criteria for obtaining appropriate international protection and assistance, and profound implications for the life and safety of the people concerned. One of the main tasks of this function is that it defines UNHCR's obligations towards refugees, but it also sets responsibly the commitments of other agencies cooperating with UNHCR, as is the case for States, to protect these individuals. "In certain contexts, particularly in certain situations of mass influx of refugees or where prevailing conditions have the same effect on a large population, UNHCR has the possibility of dispensing with individual examination of applications and determining the eligibility of refugee status collectively to make the process more agile and efficient" (UNHCR).

On the other hand, each UNHCR office is responsible for formulating and executing its own procedures, because the operational environments in which UNHCR operates are diverse, it will be up to each office to establish the procedures that are best appropriate to guarantee the quality and effectiveness to determine refugee status; however, these procedures must satisfy certain basic principles and standards of UNHCR so that it can be ensured that all applications for asylum submitted, wherever they are, consistently meet the standards of due process quality. However, according to the results of recent assessments of several UNHCR offices, it is confirmed that such standards have not been properly applied in all refugee accreditation processes, and the need has arisen to adopt a new approach to the determination of refugee status, consistently improving its quality, equity and integrity in each process. Based on this, the Department of International Protection (DPT) has developed the "Procedural Standards for Refugee Status Determination under UNHCR's Mandate", which is intended to address these shortcomings by including measures and standard uniform procedures for refugee status determination as well as specific guidelines

to facilitate the incorporation of these standards into all UNHCR offices in their own operational procedures. These Procedural Standards provide detailed guidelines for each stage of the refugee determination process under UNHCR, which commences from the reception of refugee applicants to the final decision on their application (UNHCR).

One of the key issues that have been included in the Procedural Rules is the registration of all documents and events that arise during the procedure for determining refugee status, as it constitutes a fundamental step in the process, which should generate an individual file for each principal applicant wishing to obtain such recognition. However, where more than one family member applies for refugee status as a principal applicant, the law provides as a general rule that a separate file, but with reference to the other main file, be created for each applicant; In the case of relatives or dependents of a principal applicant, a process known as derivative refugee status, all documents and events shall be recorded in the file of the principal applicant. Each file must contain the following elements:

- The application form for the recognition of the refugee status of the principal applicant.
- The form of each adult relative or dependent that accompanies the principal applicant and is applying for refugee status.
- Photographs of the principal applicant and each applicant of the derived condition that accompany the principal applicant.
- Copies of all identity documents and other relevant documentation.
- All annotations and memoranda prepared by UNHCR staff relating to applicants, including all kinds of records of conversations with them or third parties.
- All correspondence relating to applicants.
- All relevant medical information.
- Proof of all formal decisions taken during the processing of the application.
- Copies of the documents issued by UNHCR to applicants.
- Applicant contact information (UNHCR).

In addition, each file must attach an "action sheet", in which all UNHCR staff should briefly describe any action or activity inherent to the processing of the application, the date of the action and the name of the official involved, including in such sheet the following:

- Interviews and appointments with applicants, or relating to them.
- The filing date of the applicants' requests for appeal or other documents relating to other procedures to be carried out by UNHCR, such as cancellation, revocation, cessation or reopening of the record.
- All decisions made by UNHCR regarding the status of applicants or their rights.
- Documents issued to the applicant by UNHCR, including date and form of issuance (UNHCR).

The existence of files within the process for determination as a refugee is of vital importance and utility, since it allows for greater agility and efficiency in operations, avoiding delays in the resolution of applications and providing aid and protection within the terms appropriate. In conclusion, it can be said that the creation of the Procedural Standards has led to significant progress in UNHCR's refugee procedures, as it has improved its quality, equity and integrity in each of its tasks under the mandate of that organization, by having the applicants receive the appropriate service in accordance with the objectives set by the international community.

1.3.3 International Committee of the Red Cross:



Image No. 4: Elaborated by "International Committee of the Red Cross".

<https://www.icrc.org/es>

The "International Committee of the Red Cross" is a private international body with a very specific statute, which was founded in 1863 and plays a very significant role within the international community, since its main mission is to work firmly for the faithful application of international humanitarian law. In this regard, it carries out various activities

before governmental authorities and armed opposition groups, taking the necessary steps to ensure that all the provisions established in respect of humanitarian law are respected and complied with, for which it “submits its findings, makes proposals and, if necessary, constantly reminds them of their obligations, as well as exercising their oversight task in attempting to establish a certain relationship of trust with the belligerent groups. In order for the International Committee of the Red Cross to carry out its task of safeguarding international humanitarian law in the face of any situation, the Geneva Conventions confer the exclusive right of access to prisoners of war and civilians. In addition, according to the express provisions of States, this body has the task of providing assistance and protection to the victims of armed conflicts, internal disturbances and all direct consequences arising from situations of violence around the world” (International Committee for the Red Cross). With regard to refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), despite not being the main body of protection and assistance for refugees, such as the UNHCR, is intervening in favor of these persons in the alternative if they are the only organization present in the place where assistance is required towards them and is withdrawn once UNHCR or other specialized agencies take control of the situation to be able to dedicate themselves to tasks of their specificity. However, they will be able to offer refugees various search services for people around the world so that they can keep in touch with their families at any time through its Central Search Agency. It also conducts war surgery programs on behalf of all wounded refugees by keeping them safe and under the necessary precautions. When refugees suffer serious security problems in the host country, especially when their camps are located near the border and are subjected to violence or military operations, the "International Committee of the Red Cross" has a parallel competence to that of UNHCR, which is why it acts as a neutral and independent intermediary, through the application of actions that protect the rights and security of refugees, in the following aspects: "location of camps in dangerous areas, exposed to hostilities, close to the border and the presence of combatants in refugee camps" (International Committee of the Red Cross).

Another considerable concern that the "International Committee of the Red Cross" often has, is the repatriation of the refugees to their country of origin. Although the repatriation issue is not directly involved, the Committee considers it essential that both States and

relevant organizations should make a thorough assessment of the timing and conditions of return of these persons in order to be able to safeguard their safety and physical integrity; in this sense, the Red Cross, plays its role in making recommendations to facilitate the return of refugees in complete safety and above all in dignified conditions, warning against the risks of premature repatriation in places and areas with little stability and whose infrastructure is in poor condition or even destroyed. It is appropriate to mention the problem of anti-personnel mines, since they constitute a major impediment to the return of refugees and displaced persons to their countries of origin while their devastating effects greatly affect the civilian population and their subsistence in these places because they hinder the reconstruction of those countries that have suffered from wars; therefore, the "International Committee of the Red Cross" suggests that the total ban on the use of these anti-personnel mines will put an end to this concern (International Committee of the Red Cross).

There are cases in which both the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNHCR are equally able to intervene and provide assistance, which is why the work of both agencies becomes a complementary activity, through appropriate coordination, assistance can be provided to all refugees or other victims in the best possible conditions. In addition, there are other institutions within the Red Cross that play an important role in the area of refugee assistance, such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the Federation of Red Cross.

1.4 National Rights of Refugees in Canada:

The phenomenon of refugees is considered to be an event dating back into the past, but in this day it has been provoked with greater force, as thousands of people have been obliged to move to other places because of the constant existence of armed, political or social conflicts in their countries of origin, where their human rights have been violated and unprotected; this is why the international community has undertaken a number of actions in favor of refugees, through its corresponding body called UNHCR, so that these fundamental rights and freedoms are respected and highly regarded in any part of the world. In addition, the international community, in considering refugees as one of the world's largest problems, urging all States to actively collaborate in solving this problem by opening their borders to accommodate these vulnerable people within its national territory.

In recent years, a number of States have welcomed thousands of these people by providing them with adequate assistance and protection, as is the specific case in Canada, “which according to United Nations reports is the third industrialized country that receives the most asylum applications, behind the United States and France” (UN).

1.4.1 General Principles:

Canada is a nation characterized by playing a fundamental role in international relations. Thanks to its humanitarian tradition and respect for compliance with its obligations to the international community, it has been able to offer help to thousands of people in recent years who are in vulnerable and insecure conditions, known globally as refugees. It is important to note that this country is part of the Refugee Convention of 1951 of Geneva and its 1967 Protocol, so their efforts are clearly geared to the protection of refugees through the granting of the right of asylum to the same. Canada has, in its humanitarian policy, given permanent residence to approximately 30,000 refugees under an elaborate process of protection, which mainly includes two components: "The Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program" and the "Asylum Program" persons seeking protection as refugees within the country, with whom they have greatly benefited these displaced persons by giving them the opportunity to start a new life within their national borders (Immigration CA).

The United Nations, in seeing that Canada's contribution has been significant within the international community, has received it in a positive and satisfactory manner. They have also assured, through the High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, that the work that Canada has provided has been complemented with that of the organization, which has succeeded in speeding up the processes: quickly identifying the most vulnerable refugees to later induct them as soon as possible within this country, immediately giving them a temporary residence permit with which they can legally reside and work to be able to cover their basic needs while performing the necessary procedures to access permanent residence in Canada. However, the Canadian refugee system has been subject to strong comments and criticism by some critics, since the average processing time for each application has been estimated to be approximately 16 months and the appeal time of 11 months, resulting in lax and late processes. For this reason, the Canadian authorities have undertaken several reforms to the system and its procedures with the objective of

significantly shortening the times by getting the answers between 60 to 90 days. All citizens who are in refugee status may apply for asylum, unless they are subject to an expulsion order (UN).

1.4.2 Domestic Legal Process for the Reception of Refugees in Canada:

Each State, within its internal legal system, has its own specific regulations and through which it manages its action at the local and international level. However, there are international conventions and regulations addressed to all the member States that constitute it and are used as a reference for their action within the international community. In the case of Canada with respect to refugees, it has a system characterized by two main parts, which were mentioned above, being: "The Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program", aimed at those seeking protection outside of Canada and "The Asylum Program" aimed specifically at persons applying for protection as refugees within the country; the cooperation and assistance provided by Canada to these people are considered as key values that have as their fundamental objective to save lives and provide stability to those individuals who flee their countries of origin having no hope of alleviating or improving their situation where their safety and integrity are in constant danger. Based on these two important programs that Canada manages within its migration system, it helps to find workable solutions to all long-term and emerging refugee situations, leading countries with emerging democracies to put in place measures that seek to avoid and, above all, resolve conflicts resulting in waves of refugees around the world, for which the country undertakes humanitarian action jointly with UNHCR as the main protection agency towards them; in addition, Canada has introduced a third refugee welcome program called "Blended Visa Office - Referred" (BVOR), which was launched in 2013 and has the same aspirations and benefit objectives towards the people like the previous ones (Government of Canada).

Canada within its internal process states that the majority of applicants who have been approved receive in the first instance asylum status within the country and can apply at a Canadian port of entry or the internal office of the Canadian Immigration Center; in the event that an official of the Canadian Immigration Center decides that the application for refugee recognition and protection is eligible for referral, they send it to the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB), considered to be an independent body that takes decisions in immigration and refugee matters within Canada, where a hearing should be held before an

independent tribunal composed of members of the IRB Refugee Protection Division who will determine whether the person making the application is a refugee in agreement to the Convention or a person who, without being a refugee, needs protection. It is important to emphasize that applicants, before the hearing, may have the full right under Canadian law to obtain employment authorization or study authorization; on the other hand, although such a hearing is not of an incompatible nature, it is usually carried out with the presence of the legal counsel of the applicant as well as that of the government official who oversees the refugee applications. If the application is duly approved, the applicant obtains the status of refugee or protected person, which means that he / she has the absolute right to apply for permanent residence within the country, a process of which ends in approximately 18 months; but if the application has been rejected, the person must receive an explanatory notification of the reasons for that decision, and the applicant must leave the country within 30 days. However, you will have 15 days from the date you received the notice requesting a judicial review of your record in a Federal Court of Canada, as well as requesting that the risk that runs the referral of his case or, in absence, refers to humanitarian reasons for a corresponding re-evaluation of the file (Immigration CA).

All persons seeking refuge within Canada must present all their identity documents, including passport, driver's license and other relevant credentials. In addition, the applicant will receive a personal information form that must be completed and attached to all necessary documentation so that it can be sent to the examining board. If the applicant submits the application to an office of the Citizenship and Immigration Department of Canada, this federal agency, at the time of examining said application, should contact the petitioner for a personal interview, if he considers it necessary for providing aid and protection to those most in need per their internal laws. All requests for asylum or refuge that are filed in Canada are carried out through the intermediary of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as well as private organizations dedicated to humanitarian assistance who report to the country of existence of cases of settlement so that they can be properly evaluated and considered; these private organizations have previously signed an agreement with the Canadian Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, under which they have committed themselves to seeking funds and resources to carry out various tasks for the assistance and protection of persons at risk within (the government of Canada).

Generally, refugees because they are vulnerable to others do not have the resources to settle easily in a new place, which makes their survival considerably more difficult. This is why Canada provides initial assistance to all refugees that come to settle within the country, either by the federal government, the province of Quebec or certain private organizations, which undertake significant economic aid that allows these people to successfully integrate into the country. The government of Canada, through its programs, provides refugees and their families with assistance aimed primarily at covering basic needs such as food, clothing, housing and others, immediately. Regarding the payment of housing, the government provides this service for one year or until such person becomes self-sufficient. Private organizations undertaking social assistance actions towards refugees are responsible for providing financial assistance, usually for a period of one year, but there are cases where aid can last up to three years (government of Canada).

In recent years the phenomenon of refugees has been a problem that has gone around the world, where many countries have contributed positively to the solution of this problem by opening their borders; Canada, has become one of the countries that has provided the most assistance to refugees, especially Syrians, through the implementation of their humanitarian policy, which has enabled thousands of people to enter into a new society where their fundamental rights and freedoms are respected and properly restored with the aim of establishing order and peace at the international level among all States and other subjects that conform to international law.

1.5 Presentation of Similar Cases and Plans:

For centuries, the countries that make up the Middle East have been characterized by constant political, religious and economic warfare, which has displaced millions of people around the world. Syria is now one of those countries, which, owing to the conflicts and wars its population has experienced in recent years, has led to more than 275,000 deaths and displacement of 4.5 million refugees to different parts of the world, being the largest flow since World War II, which is why the international community, through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has promoted reception programs for these people as well as impelled the other States to take actions that can help to solve this problem by opening their borders, where these individuals can obtain the opportunity to

start a new life without violence or situations that threaten their safety and integrity; a number of States have cooperated significantly, as they have accommodated a large number of Syrian refugees within their national borders, with the most aid being Canada, that has undertaken a reception plan “#WelcomeRefugees” for refugees from Syria, which we will speak of in more detail in the latter; nevertheless it is important to mention that the government of Canada has committed itself to receiving approximately 25,000 people, of whom 18,000 have arrived in the country, which means that the results have been satisfactory within the international community and even more beneficial for all the displaced Syrians.

Another country that has joined this great reception is Uruguay, which, with a similar plan to Canada, has undertaken several actions in favor of the Syrian refugees, opening their borders for the entry of these people in their country. This welcome plan formally began with former Uruguayan President José Mujica, executed in his last year of office, initially proposing to allow a group of 120 Syrian refugees to enter the country, which would come in two groups simultaneously; one of them arrived in Uruguay in October 2014, while the others were scheduled to arrive in February next year. The Foreign Ministry and the Human Rights Secretary of Uruguay worked together to carry out this humanitarian aid in the form of ransom of several Syrians who were then in camps in Lebanon, whose conditions were unsafe and unworthy. Being an international responsibility, involving all within the international community, Uruguay assumed several responsibilities for helping the Syrian refugees, providing them with a place to settle, the economic resources needed to survive, a job opportunity in which they could develop, education for Syrian children and, above all, a legal protection that they had long lacked. The government of Uruguay to implement this plan, worked together with the UNHCR, which was responsible for preselecting people who could be hosted in this country according to the profiles that the Uruguayan government specified (CNN Español).

The plan offered an entry criterion for large families, which is why they could travel to uncles and grandparents belonging to the same family nucleus; On the other hand, the profile of the worker that Uruguay had developed with UNHCR was related to agricultural and agricultural production, these being the most important and significant items of the Uruguayan economy. However, the greatest challenge that the Government of Uruguay has

had during the implementation of this plan has been the adequate social integration of these refugees within their national borders, which has not been easy since, after the arrival of the first group where five families entered, there was discontent from of these refugees considering Uruguay as an expensive and unsafe country, alluding that their living conditions reach poverty and are living a reality outside their expectations, reason for which they asked for their return to Lebanon; In addition, the Uruguayan government faced a social, cultural and solidarity challenge, as several opposition groups made up of their own compatriots considered the plan disregarded, adding that the government should address the country's own shortcomings and not others. Currently, with the change of government, the country's Foreign Ministry sent a letter to UNHCR ratifying that the agreement signed by the Uruguayan government stands and hopes to bring other groups later, despite the fact that the second group by Loss of contact did not reach the country; In terms of the current conditions of Syrian refugees within Uruguay, the country's Human Rights Secretariat, through a communiqué addressed to the entire international community, has affirmed that these five families established within Uruguay have made important progress in their Conditions, fundamentally in labor and educational matters, stating that they are in the middle of a period of in the Uruguayan society that culturally is alien to them and specifying that the Uruguayan government has invested its efforts towards these people to provide them with a dignified life in the same conditions as their Own citizens taking into account that their human rights were systematically violated for a long time, doing everything possible to reverse this process (The Observer).

Similarly, one of the States that has shown concern about Syrian refugees has been the United States, which, through its President, Barack Obama, has embarked on a "Welcome Plan" with the goal of reaching at least 10,000 people from Syria until October of this year. This proposal has received the rejection of the republicans who consider that the reception of refugees could infiltrate terrorists belonging to the Islamic State, promising to take various legislative actions to stop the reception process. This opposition increased even further, with the terrorist attack in San Bernardino, California, in December 2015, however, the court ruled in favor of the federal government. The US government, when considering the vulnerability of these people, accelerated the reception process, so that at present the United States has 8,000 that they have managed to host within its territory, leaving the

expectation of the established figure of 10,000 people. However, the process of receiving refugee status within the United States has been long and difficult, despite the fact that it has been approved, thousands of people have refused refuge for hundreds of reasons of low credibility or having evidence that they may be suspected of terrorism, this is why the US government performs a thorough analysis of each applicant; however, once they arrive in the country they receive financial assistance during the first months and due cultural training (The Republic).

The above-mentioned reception plans have as a common feature, assistance to refugees from Syria, with the fundamental objective of protecting the human rights of these thousands of people considered internationally as refugees by opening their borders and the allocation of all the necessary resources so that they can be restored to a new society, as well as giving them the opportunity under equal conditions and rights to start a new life with due protection and legal security, a duty that must be fulfilled by all the States around the world.

2. CHAPTER 2: DIAGNOSIS OF THE CANADIAN WELCOME PLAN FOR REFUGEES:

2.1 Introduction:

This chapter will tell us the main causes and reasons as to why Canada has undertaken its "Welcome Plan" towards Syrian refugees, as well as the determination of the true contribution it has had within the international community, especially in Syria. In addition, mentioned will be the changes that the Canadian migration policy has undergone to date followed by a detailed description of its respective "#WelcomeRefugees" plan with the objective of clearly establishing the steps to be taken to continue to be able to enter the territory of the North American country; as a key point, it has been considered substantial to indicate what is the current reality of Syria in relation to the economic, political and social aspect in contrast to the reality preceding its migration exodus. Finally, in support of the present research, will show the results obtained from the interviews conducted.

2.2 Canada, nation of Immigrants:



Image No. 5: Elaborated by "Central Intelligence Agency" (CIA).

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ca.html>

In the last 200 years of its history, Canada has received millions of foreigners from different parts of the world, who have come to the country with the aim of integrating and forming part of the Canadian way of life, thus granting diversity and multiculturalism to the population and strongly consolidating the idea that the majority of the own citizens of the country are descendants of immigrants; during World War II, the entry of refugees from Eastern European countries into the country was quite restricted due to clearly ideological and political issues; In the years after 1945, this restriction began to diminish to a great

extent, giving way to the entry of many European immigrants fleeing their countries as a result of the existing wars and conflicts known as the displaced. Among these groups of people there were numerous contingents of Italians and other inhabitants of southern Europe, which indicated that there were large numbers of people in these parts of the world who were in unsafe conditions and subhuman realities, serving as an alert for the Canadian government to take certain measures to protect refugees and their families. Thus, in 1951, Canada signed the Convention on Refugees promoted by the United Nations Organization and thereafter continued to firmly support the principles established in the Convention and secured them with the enactment of its “Immigration Law And Protection of Refugees”, which began the reception and protection of refugees within the country in the coming years. At present, Canada is considered to be a key player in the reception of displaced persons and refugees around the world, being an advisable destination in cases of persecution or injustice, thus becoming a nation of immigrant solidarity (Immigration CA).

2.3 Main causes and motives:

As we mentioned earlier, Canada is a country that has contributed significantly within the international community, specifically with refugees, and through its humanitarian policy has opened its borders in solidarity with all those displaced persons from Syria, undertaking its plan of reception to relocate properly in the country. The main causes of this decision have been fundamental, as they have allowed the Canadian government to change its restrictive migration policies to more flexible and liberal ones in favor of refugees by providing them the protection and assistance required. The factor that gave rise to the implementation of the "Plan of Reception" by Canada was the negative reaction of other States to this reality, closing their borders completely to the refugees and thus leaving them unprotected and helpless; the Canadian action took more strength and consistency, with a regrettable and heartbreaking news that went around the world, the same that was about the death of Ayan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy who drowned while trying to cross the border of Turkey to Greece together with his family in search of security and protection, to which they had been denied with the respective resettlement in Canada previously, reason why this event marked an importance in the country, causing the government to be sensitized and to undertake a ‘welcome plan’ for Syrian refugees. On the other hand, the national elections held in October 2015 were timely, as John McCallum, a new Minister of

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, was established as a member of the European Union with the objective of resettling them in a new society (Refugee Studies Center).

The commitment of the Government of Canada was largely driven by the feeling of solidarity that characterizes them, as the citizens showed great concern for this situation, urging their government to take measures that coincide with the rhetoric of Canadian identity, which is compassionately and actively committed to the international community; for this reason, citizens have voluntarily participated in the patronage of this noble cause, playing a fundamental role in the task of resettlement of the Syrians within their national borders, through a program called the "Group of Five", which deals with five or more Canadian citizens or permanent residents that can apply to fund the arrival of these refugees to the country and take responsibility for helping them after their arrival (Refugee Studies Center).

Canada is taking a clear and positive commitment to refugees at the national and international levels. The number of actions that have been undertaken in recent times by the government, have been clearly reflected in the reception of approximately 25,000 Syrian refugees within the country; it is important to mention that Canada is a country with a high level of refugee settlement services because it has a well-established system, which has greatly benefited newcomers. With the recent terrorist attacks in Europe, there has been a need to accommodate a larger number of displaced persons, a major challenge for Canadians, as it involves the investment of more financial resources (Refugee Studies Center).

2.4 Canadian Immigration System - Changes and Reforms:

In recent years, the Canadian immigration system has faced several changes and reforms; the same that have been implemented with the aim of providing greater openness and assistance to immigrants who want to settle in the country. At the time of the national elections in October 2015, Justin Trudeau representing the Liberal Party was winner as Prime Minister of Canada, who in the formation of his new cabinet put more emphasis on the case of immigration, considering it as one of the most important points for the country, which is why he chose for Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship by a politician with considerable experience and mileage, as is the case of John McCallum. This federal department has had a new approach and objectives to meet, as it has succeeded in

replacing certain restrictive migration policies with more flexible and liberal ones, having as their first goal to solve several issues related to the shelter system. The new government of Canada, together with the Immigration Department, have made certain changes to the immigration system, with the main purpose being to open up and welcome the country to refugees from Syria, as well as reducing waiting times for all immigration programs established in Canada, but mainly those dealing with family reunification as a primary point of action (MN News).

It is substantial to mention that, under the conservative Stephen Harper, the immigration system was essentially focused on meeting the immediate needs of powerful economic sectors, allowing the entry of people who only contribute to the economic growth of the country under the “Temporary Foreign Workers Program,” leaving out thousands of individuals who needed help and protection. In addition, the Harper government policy allowed companies to pay up to 15% less to immigrant workers from places like the Philippines or Latin America, which resulted in abuse and lack of consideration on equal terms with others. In 2012, the number of these temporary foreign workers, who were unable to apply for permanent residence in Canada and had fewer rights and benefits than the country's residents, significantly increased to more than 330,000 workers a year, where most were employed by fast-food chains. As a result of the failure and strong criticism of the “Temporary Foreign Workers Program,” a new system called "Express Entry" was immediately implemented, which focused on giving priority to those qualified persons with an offer to work in the country and meet the demands of the Canadian labor market. This new system consisted in qualifying the most potential economic immigrants on a previously established scale of points; those who obtained the highest scores based on certain factors such as their age, education, professional qualifications, language level and experience would be quickly invited to the country with the direct option of applying for permanent residence within the same, while the rest remained in a waiting group from which the government or possibly the employers of the companies could select. Also, this new system had as its fundamental mandate to attract people with specific professions in the labor field such as engineers, specialists in information technologies and employees of the health system that the country needed so much. Canada established an ideal profile within this new system, which took meaningful consideration of the age of each applicant,

since the new immigrant dreamed for this country should be a young person with extensive experience in the Canadian labor market, but mainly to have a job offer within the country as mentioned above, which is why petitioners in their twenties received higher marks due to their age and were the most eligible to be selected (in picture).

Today, Canadian migration policy, despite not having undergone major changes, has been significantly transformed in favor of immigrants, especially refugees, as a result of the reforms carried out by the current government have achieved satisfactory results. Integrators within the international community, since greater openness and admission of refugees within Canada have been achieved, providing them with proper assistance and protection. One of the fundamental changes that the government has undertaken within the migratory system is the agility and ease of entry into the country of those people who come from places where there is no concern that they can cause harm to Canadian society and particularly the elimination of the visa requirement for the citizens of Mexico; in addition, as a key reform that this liberal government seeks to transform, it is family reunification within its national borders, through the application of more open-minded laws, for which the new Minister of Migration John McCallum proposed a system in which Canadian couples or permanent residents can come immediately to the country while awaiting their sponsorship process. Regarding refugee entry, expectations for change are not promising at least in the early years of the new liberal government, as it is estimated that the number of immigrants per year will remain at the same levels as in previous years; Likewise, John McCallum will analyze in detail the results and impact of the Express Entry System to determine its validity or conclusion, however, several experts mention that this system has been received in a pleasant way by all the federal departments that make up the country and have arrogated productive results, and the reason why its operation will remain intact. In regard to refugees, which is a major concern, a full restoration of the health benefits granted by the federal government has been established, many of which were eliminated by the conservatives, claiming that they were medical services that the citizens themselves and of which they themselves had no access; On the other hand, it is intended to establish a panel of human rights experts, who can actively help to determine with certainty the countries of greater security as a destination for refugees, in case the application or their stay in the country is denied; it is important to mention that many of these reforms may be

implemented through ministerial decrees, while others must go through due process of law through the House of Commons and the Senate.

The changes that Canadian migration policy has undergone progressively have been favorably rewarding for the refugees, since with the implementation of the Government's "Welcome Plan" towards Syrian displaced people, it has generated thousands of people lacking in Protection and legal security, thereby demonstrating Canada's interest and humanitarian commitment to the international community and its well-being. Although these changes and modifications have been limited and much remains to be done on the subject of migration, the repercussions have exceeded the established expectations, since through the spirit of solidarity and welcome from the Canadians, the refugees have been able to find the Opportunity to start a new life in equal rights and conditions than the others, making Canada a country that welcomes these people and those most in need of protection around the world.

2.5 Description of “WelcomeRefugees” plan presented by Canada:



Image N°6: Elaborated by “ABC Internacional” (2015).

http://www.abc.es/internacional/abci-canada-no-aceptara-hombres-solteros-entre-refugiados-sirios-201511280123_noticia.html

Canada has become the first nation in the world to fulfill its great humanitarian promise to host and provide the necessary protection to those refugees from Syria, an act of solidarity that has been duly carried out through the correct and faithful execution of its so-called

“#WelcomeRefugees Plan,” which has been driven by its current government, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who announced at the end of October 2015 the arrival in Syria of 25,000 Syrian refugees as a result of the constant wars and conflicts in your country of origin. This plan consisted mainly in receiving this number of refugees, of whom the first 10,000 would arrive by the end of 2015, while the remaining 15,000 would do so by the end of this year. These estimates have been satisfactorily met and expectations of refugee reception have increased considerably; it is important to note that those refugees who have entered the country have been detained from the asylum camps located in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, these being the countries that have invested the most in shelter and basic care during this difficult and extensive crisis. According to recent figures, an estimated 4.5 million Syrian citizens have been forced to leave their country because of wars and insecurity, with 2.5 million of them welcomed by Turkey, 1.2 million for Lebanon and For its part Jordan has managed to receive 635,000 refugees, hoping that throughout the year 2016 the figures increase positively (UNHCR).

The resettlement process of these 25,000 Syrian refugees has been characterized primarily by their organization and continuity, with five key phases during their implementation, which have provided a rapid and effective response to those Syrian refugees considered by the most vulnerable, without neglecting the health and safety of Canadians; These five phases have been duly established as necessary in the fostering process, which is why each applicant must comply with each one in a correct way and thus can obtain the welcome and protection they so require. The "Welcome Plan" presented by Canada together with each of its phases will be described below:

- **Phase 1: Identification of Syrian Refugees to Enter Canada:**

One of the key steps in the refugee reception process is the identification of each applicant wishing to enter the country, an activity in which the Canadian government has worked closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who have invested in identification efforts in countries such as Jordan and Lebanon, where a large and extensive list of registered Syrian refugees is found. With the objective of reducing the security risks to these people, the actors involved in this process have given priority to those refugees who are more vulnerable because of their high security risk, such as women at risk, children, the disabled, the elderly, as well as the case of whole families, providing

them with a new home where they can be established in a solid and safe manner. Once the refugees are clearly identified in the above-mentioned countries, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) immediately contacts them, through text messages, in order to determine whether these persons are interested in being resettled within Canada. After UNHCR, through a scan of the iris, confirms the identification of the persons concerned, they are referred to the Canadian authorities to continue with due processing of the reception. In the case of Turkey, considered as another refugee registration point, they are registered in the State and not in the UNHCR, but the reception process used has been similar to that of Jordan and Lebanon (Government of Canada).

- **Phase 2: Processing Syrian refugees abroad:**

Continuing with the processing of the reception, the people who have been previously identified as being interested are processed in the offices of visas located in Amman and Beirut respectively, for which the government of Canada has deployed about 500 people, including officials of temporary visa, to these offices in order to make the process more agile and efficient. Subsequently, refugees are interviewed by visa officers with more professional experience in the subject, who are responsible for collecting all necessary information for the issuance of visas. It is important to bear in mind that all procedures related to immigration, such as medical examinations and due security control, must be carried out abroad. Within the security check, is the collection of biographical information as well as biometric of the applicant, including fingerprints and digital photographs, the same ones that besides being collected by the competent authorities, must be verified by immigration, the police and the bases of existing safety data. Once the applicants have complied with all the above documentation and information, they are granted the permanent residence visa with which they can be arranged on flights contiguous to Canada. In the case of Turkey, visa processing capacity has been markedly improved, resulting in a larger number of refugees selected for reception in the United States (Government of Canada).

- **Phase 3: Transportation to Canada:**

As of December 2015, all refugees who have arrived in the country, have done so through aircraft contracted by the government or through commercial flights; Therefore, flights

have landed mainly in Montreal or Toronto, as these cities have been considered the most appropriate because they have facilities and services to process satisfactorily the large number of refugees who have entered to the present day. In all, 99 flights landed in Canada, of which 56 have arrived in Toronto with approximately 13,628 refugees, as well as 43 flights have arrived in Montreal with 11,012 people, figures that have been increasing significantly to the present (Government of Canada) .

- **Phase 4: Welcome to Canada:**

Once the selected refugees have arrived in Canada, they are prosecuted and admitted into the country by border service officials, which includes verifying their identity to avoid collateral damage to the population and the country itself, as well as being examined with the objective of verifying if they present signs of any disease to be treated properly, taking all the necessary precautions before their official placement within the Canadian society. The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Department, with the help of the Canadian Red Cross, has established welcome centers at airports in destination cities, such as Montreal and Toronto, where refugees are provided with clothing, snacks, drinks and serve as resting places for these people while waiting for their due process of admission within the country. In the case of refugees who arrive in the country, through private sponsorship and not under the direct protection of the government, they are taken directly to the community where their private sponsor is located; the government has done very important and significant work in the reception process, as it has managed to relocate refugees in communities where it has been able to obtain support and openness towards them, motivating other cities around the country to become an active part of this plan and feeling of solidarity. Another relevant aspect that is taken into account when relocating refugees is the availability of quotas that exist in schools, colleges, welcome programs as well as the housing system within each community. In addition, it is important to estimate if those refugees who arrive in the country to establish themselves have relatives within Canada, as this helps the government to relocate them in places close to or close to them. In the case of those refugees who have not predetermined their final destination to reside within the country, they remain temporarily in hotels until they can be transferred to their new communities in safe conditions (Government of Canada).

- **Phase 5: Settlement and Community Integration:**

Once the Syrian refugees are properly relocated to secure communities within Canada, they begin a very important process within the "Welcome Plan", since together with their families they undertake the construction of a new life and the integration to a new society, for which the government provides these people with basic services and long-term support to ensure that they are satisfactorily established within the community where they are; In addition, this government aid implies a monthly contribution for refugees during their first year in the country or until they can become self-sufficient, as well as the delivery of clothing, food, household items, bedding, furniture and other basic necessities. The economic size of the refugees depends essentially on the size of the family to which the aid is directed and is generally similar to the provincial social assistance rates in which each refugee lives. On the other hand, the assistance provided to refugees, besides being governmental, may be from private sponsors, who support the refugees during the first 12 months of their stay in the country or until they can do them on their own; these private sponsors are ready to provide refugees with guaranteed care from the time they arrive at the airport, through assistance and guidance for resettlement, and especially, social support. All refugees have access to settlement services that are funded by the Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Department, which includes: language classes, employment services to help find jobs, career guidance programs, motivational workshops focusing on how to build a successful life within Canada and how to be an active citizen for the country, among others; in the case of the Syrian refugees who arrive in Quebec, they receive the same services and support of the aforementioned, with the difference that the province is in charge of providing this to them. This last phase of integration and settlement is a continuous effort among all those who are part of the implementation of the plan, as is the case of the government, private sponsors and the communities themselves, as they seek to ensure that refugees are able to place themselves successfully within Canadian society on the basis of the same rights and obligations as the citizens themselves (Government of Canada).

Taking into consideration that resettlement is a responsibility voluntarily adopted by each State, there is no legal imperative to accommodate refugees or to establish quotas or criteria within the international community; the fact of embarking on a plan like that of Canada

clearly shows a clear recognition of international cooperation, which in addition to being mentioned should be imitated by other countries. It is important to mention that the results obtained from the reception plan to date have been satisfactory and completely beneficial, since the effort undertaken by the Canadian government and other private actors has been materialized in the reception of a great number of refugees, who have been given adequate protection and legal security. Today, there are more than 27,000 refugees who have entered the country legally, a figure that has exceeded the expectations established before the implementation of the plan, a situation that has made Canada face a great challenge and above all that shows the world how to open our hearts and to welcome those people, who for a long time have been fleeing from extraordinarily difficult situations.

2.6 Syria's Reality:



For centuries the countries of the Middle East have been characterized by constant wars for political, religious and economic reasons, resulting in the deaths of thousands of people as well as the migration of many individuals to other countries in search of protection and legal certainty. Syria, has been one of those countries, which has developed an internal conflict since 2011, which brought with it harrowing and unnerving consequences for the Syrian population and leaving total destruction in the country, which explains the participation and contribution of the international community itself. As a response to this reality, some countries have shown a positive attitude, opening their borders in solidarity with the firm objective that all those Syrian refugees who are displaced from their country

of origin can enter and obtain due protection, nevertheless these efforts have failed to stop suffering, displacement and violence against human rights, and the possibility of a profound migratory crisis unprecedented since World War II, such as that in Syria, is becoming more palpable.

2.6.1 History of the Conflict:

The civil war in Syria had, as a point of outbreak, convulsed hostilities aroused within the country under the name of “Arab Spring” which sought a political reshuffle among all the peoples of the region at the beginning of 2011; unlike other Arab countries such as Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, where after several efforts was achieved the overthrow of totalitarian regimes to later insert democratization in society, in the case of Syria happened the opposite, since the established power for years under the Al Assad regime it resisted and was greatly strengthened through a war that has reached regional and international dimensions. At the beginning of this war, the repression of government forces over the Syrian population was peaceful and somewhat appeasing despite the interference of both state and non-state participants, as well as population discontent unleashed in much stronger and more extreme dynamics, causing the level of confrontation and extension of damages to become complex and reach a point of total stagnation. With the rise to power of Hafez Al-Assad in 2000 due to the death of his father Bashar Al-Assad, who had been in power since 1970 following a coup, Syrian society has lived in a characterized political environment, mainly due to repression, sectarianism, corruption and the economic and social benefits, of an elite closely related to the Assad family. It is important to mention that even during the Bashar Al-Assad administration, the changes were scarce and insignificant within Syrian society, since there was no correct and just redistribution of wealth among all citizens, thus the poverty and inequality remained almost intact (CEPSCA).

With the introduction of new actors in this civil war, the consequences have been even more devastating for the country, as clashes have intensified in greater numbers leaving the population completely devastated; In addition, with the formation of different sides of confrontation the possibility of ending this war has become increasingly scarce, because this universe of factions immersed in the Syrian war, have interests that are opposed to each other and place To communities in a state of total helplessness. On the one hand, there are the groups allied with the government and its ideology of repression, and on the other, there

are a large number of opposition groups, among them the Islamic State, better known as ISIS, a group that has controlled large Land in Syrian territory and seeks to consolidate the state under its own ideologies. This group of actors in which Syria has been divided have been characterized by leaving aside the well-being of the country and its population, since they have acted on their own interests and benefits, as in the case of Iran, Russia and China, powers that offer their support and help to the Syrian government in order to protect their interest against the western powers, who have been trying to stop the advance and growth of the radical Islamic organizations and therefore have carried out bombings inside the country. As they have financed the less extremist groups that fight against the government and indirectly against their ally powers (CEPSCA).

In conclusion, it has been observed how these conflicts have increased over time, resulting in strong consequences within the international community, such as the displacement of thousands of Syrian refugees to other countries who are unprotected and helpless. Affected by these armed clashes. Although the international community has been actively involved in resolving this conflict, its intervention in real terms has been unflattering in ending the violation of the human rights of the Syrian people, as a That to the present still continue to raise conflicts within Syria the same ones that have left a greater number of disasters (CEPSCA).

2.6.2 Economic Status:



Image No. 8: Elaborated by Taringa, The harsh reality of Syria.

<http://www.taringa.net/post/imagenes/16502029/La-cruda-realidad-de-Siria-luego-de-2-anos-de-guerrilla.html>

After the conflict in Syria, one of the most affected aspects has been the economic part of the country, which has greatly regressed to the level it had three decades ago, being an economy represented by poverty and total lack of basic services For the population. To begin with Syria's sharp economic decline over the past six years, its two major industries, both energy and tourism, have collapsed during the conflict to the point of their possible and early disappearance, which has affected the role of State regarding its role of collection causing a strong imbalance in public accounts and not allowing it to combat the uncontrolled inflation that has further accentuated the country's humanitarian crisis. From 2010 to 2013, national GDP fell sharply from \$60 billion to \$33 billion, unemployment was clearly affected, growing from half a million unemployed to 2.5 million, triggering a deep poverty level of 43% Was at a more or less stable level ranging from 9 to 10%; Foreign debts collapsed from US \$ 17 billion to US \$ 4.5 million, owing to the effort made by the Central Bank to control and curb the devaluation of its currency, which in any case has depreciated by more than 100% (Telam).

Before the conflict, Syria had a stable and highly diversified economy, which has been lost in its entirety; Agriculture accounted for 22%, oil extraction and industrialization by 25%, distribution of consumer goods by 23% and tourism by 12%, figures that remained present until the year 2010. However, today These percentages have come down completely leaving the country with no income, as is the case of oil, which by the year 2013 only maintained 5% of its production, since with the war the European countries, the main ones bought of the Syrian oil, stopped buying In 95% of the total of its production. As for the tourism industry, its fall was even more dramatic, since it represented an important source of income for the country, since in 2010 generated \$ 8 billion and with the emergence of conflict in the first planes of the main Media of the world, the business has almost completely devastated almost disappearing; With the State being the sole engine of the economy, the fact that it lost control of much of the country by opposition groups led the state to lose its capacity to fulfill its basic functions, making the country desolate and full of debts. With regard to food and basic products, which have reached prohibitive prices and inaccessible to the population, their distribution depends exclusively on the black market, which has become the great winner and benefited from this war. In many areas, potable water, electricity or telephone can scarcely be obtained, and gas oil for agriculture or

heating is scarce, due to the constant bombardment of the war, causing the inhabitants to become accustomed to the power cuts for up to 20 hours (Telam).

The economic reconstruction of Syria will be a long and extremely difficult task to face, since it will need some decades for its recovery and level of stability achieved in 2010, which despite having weak points and dragging for a long time an inequality Undeniable on ideological and political grounds, was one of the most stable in the Middle East, an issue that has now largely disappeared (Telam).

2.6.3 Social Status:



Image No. 9: Elaborated by Candela Duato, UPSOCL.

<http://www.upsocl.com/comunidad/la-cruda-realidad-detras-de-la-impactante-fotografia-del-nino-sirio-ahogado-en-la-costa-de-turquia/>

Since 2013, the war in Syria has intensified, as most of the world powers have become directly involved in the conflict, leaving more destruction and misery in the country and thus affecting the lives of its citizens. One of the main devastating consequences of this civil war is the deep crisis of refugees and migrants unprecedented in Syria since World War II, as thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes to other countries in seeking a better life under safe conditions and under the legal protection of another State. Many of these refugees have migrated to different countries close to the region, but few have been those that have provided them with assistance, since most of them have refused to enter through the construction of walls on their borders leaving them unprotected and in almost inhuman conditions. Added to this, social problems have been further diversified, as the few citizens who for various reasons have decided to remain inside Syria, live an unimaginable reality, because the violations of their fundamental human rights continue

latent daily, being the children who are the most disadvantaged, as they do not have an education system to attend. Hundreds of young people have joined the various armed groups, many of whom have died in the fighting, leaving pain and suffering to their families and a deep void that cannot be filled (Social Crisis).

According to data from UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), eight out of ten Syrian children have been affected by the war and urgently need humanitarian aid, including those within Syria, such as those refugees in neighboring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt. In addition, one in three children have been born since the beginning of the conflict, so they only know the existence of violence, fear, persecution and displacement. Only in Aleppo, the key stage of the war, some 300,000 people, of whom 120,000 are children, are trapped on the brink of starvation or death; with these data, we can see that the future of a whole generation of children is in danger and constant risk, since the six years of war in the Syrian territory throw chilling numbers and highly worrisome, since almost 7 million children are missing in poverty with their families, some 2.8 million have stopped going to school, many have started to work with only three years of age leaving behind their dreams and those who reach the age of 7 are recruited to fight (UNICEF).

On the other hand, Syrian migrants who arrive in other countries undocumented by not having a legal work permit, end up being exploited and with low quality work, which are often underpaid; the social treatment of these Syrian displaced persons in other places is demeaning and unworthy, since they are mistreated and poorly seen by the citizens of those countries until they reach the point of discrimination, being against their presence within their country. In sum, these social problems mentioned above and the many that remain to be mentioned have been a threat to the lives of the Syrians since they do not have their human rights under vulnerable conditions within the international community, which can lead to an explosion of an ethnic war that can be very dangerous for the maintenance of world peace, since these people only seek their freedom and dignity.

The civil war in Syria, apart from ending the lives of more than 250,000 Syrians and displacing 10 million from their homes and devastating the infrastructure of the country and entire cities, has left Syria in such a state of destruction that it would need at least 30 years to rebuild it (UNHCR).

2.7 Interview with Canada's diplomatic corps in Colombia:



Image N° 10: Elaborated by “Cancillería – República de Colombia” (2014).

<http://www.cancilleria.gov.co/newsroom/news/nueva-embajadora-canada-colombia-entrego-sus-cartas-credenciales-al-presidente-juan>

As an essential part of this research, an electronic interview was conducted with the Ambassador of Canada in Bogota, Carmen Sylvain, considering her opinion and approach as a valuable contribution to the issue of Syrian refugees. The welcome plan “#WelcomeRefugees” that the Canadian government has undertaken in favor of these people, which has come to solidly confirm the spirit of solidarity that Canadians have taken against the Syrian reality along with the great exodus of refugees. The first question in this interview was essentially what were the main reasons for the North American country to carry out this plan called “#WelcomeRefugees”, for which Michael Watts who has been in Beirut working in the Syrian Refugee Operation and who is the Ambassador's main aide, through an e-mail received days earlier, was able to explain that since the Syrian conflict was a worrying situation for the international community and therefore a duty that all States should face, Canada has generously invested international efforts to support the Syrian people, including those living as refugees in neighboring countries; it is important to note that to date, Canada has committed nearly \$ 1 billion in humanitarian aid to the Syrian crisis in both development and security. In addition, another issue that was addressed in the interview was the results that have been achieved in the ten months since the

implementation of the plan and what would be the expectations that the Canadian government hopes to have towards the Syrian refugees, which Michael Watts emphasized in the fact that the Canadian government had initially decided to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees, which has been successfully completed between November 2015 and February 29 of this year, including government-backed refugees such as those that have been privately sponsored. To date, Canada has managed to resettle 33,723 Syrian refugees, from November 4, 2015 to October 30, 2016. On the other hand, by 2017, the Canadian government plans to welcome the largest number of refugees and unprotected people in the history of the country, doubling the number of refugees by 2015; in addition, the high expectations for next year are the existence of a greater number of private refugees, which represents a significant growth in the number of Canadian citizens who have requested assistance in order to sponsor them. The example of international cooperation which Canada has reflected to other States is highly significant within the international community, since the openness and assistance that this country has provided to Syrian refugees has been bravely astonishing, which is why, given the last question which relates to the position that other countries should have in the face of this crisis Syria, Michael Watts, mentions as important data that the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, John McCallum in a visit to New York on September 20 in the current year, emphasized the need for other States to receive more refugees and immigrants around the world; one of the most important contributions that Minister McCallum had was the presence at a round table where the main theme was how nations could work together to effectively deal with the refugee crisis, taking as an example the migratory system employed by the Canadian government. He also attended a private sector forum on migration and refugees, where a joint initiative was recently discussed by Canada, UNHCR (as the highest body for UN refugees), and the Foundations of Society Open, which aims to increase private sponsorship of refugees around the world. This new initiative will support two main activities: first, to create training modules on private sponsorship, based mainly on a careful analysis of the Canadian model, which will be made available to other countries interested in the subject of private sponsorship towards refugees; subsequently, the necessary capacity will be established to be able to disseminate the training modules

and, in turn, offer personalized advice on how to adapt and implement the sponsorship programs.

Undoubtedly, this interview has been very enriching for the present investigation, since the information provided by the ambassador of Canada together with the given criterion of Michael Watts, has served as an important support to corroborate the information previously cited during the development of the thesis; this interview will be duly attached as attached material.

3. CHAPTER 3: PROPOSALS AND ANALYSIS:

3.1 Introduction:

The main purpose of this chapter is to make known the living conditions of the Syrian refugees within Canada at the present time, such as the labor and social status from their arrival in the country and what have been the benefits they have received throughout the process of inclusion in the new society up to the present. In addition, an essential part of the analysis will mention the positions taken by other States in the face of the difficult Syrian situation and how they have reacted to the great refugee exodus generated by the war, with an emphasis on the stance and opinion of Ecuador.

3.2 Living Conditions for Syrian Refugees in Canada:



Image No. 11: Elaborated by "NM News" (2015).

<http://nmnoticias.ca/159704/video-llegada-refugiados-sirios-canada-justin-trudeau-toronto/>

Due to the severe refugee crisis in recent years in Syria, Canada has become the country that has given the Syrians greater help within the international community, thanks to its welcome plan launched by end of year 2015 has managed to receive a large number of refugees from Syria to whom it has been able to offer adequate protection and assistance, as well as the possibility of starting a new life in the North American country. Throughout history, Canada has been characterized as a promising refuge for all those who are in vulnerable conditions such as refugees or simply for all migrants who for various reasons

have decided to migrate to Canadian lands, due to the privileges that these people can find in the country such as first world education, legal security, tolerance and above all the humanitarian impetus of all its citizens towards the respect of their rights on an equal basis. At present, all Syrian refugees established within Canada live in conditions that are satisfactorily stable and conducive to their well-being, because they are in secure settings where they can look with complete freedom at the future without looking back and having the full confidence that war and hostilities are over for them and their families. These people have a decent job for their livelihood as well as government assistance for a limited time for their expenses and the opportunity to stay in safe and comfortable housing, these and other benefits that will be mentioned later have made their stay within Canada a real privilege and tranquility but especially a new awakening for the Syrians.

3.2.1 Employment and Social Situations:



Image N° 12: Elaborated by “EuropaPress” (2016).

<http://www.europapress.es/internacional/noticia-refugiados-sirios-auxilian-victimas-incendio-fort-mcmurray-canada-20160506143813.html>

The employment situation faced by Syrian refugees within Canada is currently favorable to most of them since applicants who are accepted and relocated within the country have the opportunity to obtain proper employment authorization; once these people arrive in Canada, as part of the process of placement to which they are subjected, this is the assignment of a decent job in which they can develop normally and from which they can obtain an economic income to be able to subsist with their family. Thanks to the new liberal

government of Justin Trudeau, laws have been modified regarding labor issues within the country, which have changed considerably in favor of workers, especially refugees, since they have considered the fundamental importance of all migrants together with refugees for Canada's economic growth, as well as for the creation and generation of larger sources of long-term employment, which is why they consider it necessary to establish opening laws that allow these people, considered vulnerable by their condition, to get a decent and safe job.

One of the negative aspects related to the labor market has been the existence of the program called "Temporary Foreign Workers", which was promoted by the previous government and had as main objective to fill the jobs that the country needed for economic growth, in the short, this implied a constant abuse by the employers towards their workers and low and insignificant wages, a program that despite not being totally eliminated has been duly addressed and modified by the new liberal government (RCI). In general terms, the working conditions of the Syrians to date are quite satisfactory and promising since most of the refugees who are in the country, although they do not have a permanent job, are subject to integration programs where they are prepared to obtain employment as soon as possible, however, the massive influx of refugees into the country has greatly questioned the condition that will be given to the general public, since with the arrival of the Syrians and later their placement into Canadian society has a decrease in the likelihood of being able to get a job because vacant jobs have been significantly cut back; The current government is confident that the positive results for the country will be reflected in the future through growth in the economy, while the humanitarian action towards the Syrians is what really prevails.

The social reality faced by Syrian refugees within Canada is satisfactorily established and favorable; as these people have been able to find the peace and security they had lost for many years. Canada has been able to restore respect for, and maximum consideration for, the basic human rights of each Syrian refugee by providing them with all the necessary mechanisms to face and defend themselves against any situation and to safeguard their physical and moral integrity; in addition, by having the same rights and benefits as the Canadians themselves and having access to decent and stable work, they have made their stay in the United States a true privilege and pleasure, replacing fear and uncertainty with

faith, security, and an illusion of a promising tomorrow. The lives of Syrian refugees in Canada have been characterized mainly by living in safe and comfortable environments where children can develop normally and have the opportunity to attend educational centers where their academic training is the fundamental pillar of their existence. Although few months have passed since a large number of Syrian refugees have arrived in Canada, each one has positive and encouraging experiences in the country, since in addition to having obtained security and protection they have been able to recover the joy and happiness that for a long time they had lost, blissfully inserting themselves into a society of solidarity and humanitarianism, full of hope and optimism of a better future for themselves and their families.

3.3 Benefits Acquired by Syrian Refugees in Canada:

The implementation of the welcome plan presented by the Government of Canada towards the Syrian refugees has been a great humanitarian pride for all its citizens as well as a clear example to follow within the international community, since their assistance and protection have been seen clearly reflected in a number of benefits gained by refugees who have been resettled in Canada; it is important to note that Canada will carry out its work with the full objective of saving Syrian lives and provide all of these vulnerable people with the stability and security they lack as well as respect their human rights above any other situation. One of the immediate benefits that Syrian refugees have received within Canada is that at the time of their arrival they are immediately granted a permanent residence visa through which they are granted the same rights as the citizens of the country. The government offers comprehensive assistance to all refugees entering Canadian territory, which consists of several benefits that these people receive from entering the country to their adaptation and survival, such as work permits, access to public health, housing, counseling and orientation to life in Canada, integration programs, language classes, schooling, social and legal assistance as well as other federal, provincial, territorial and municipal support services which have allowed all Syrian refugees to live in dignified and safe conditions.

Specifically, in the case of Syrian refugees the government assistance program provides economic income for up to one year or until the refugees become self-sufficient; this monthly contribution during the first twelve months is intended to cover the costs of food, lodging and transportation of these people, considered as basic services, where the amount

varies depending on the size of the family being assisted and what the governments pertaining to each province consider convenient. On the other hand, there are private sponsorship programs where citizens, communities or organizations work together to offer their financial aid and pay for the travel and stay of Syrian refugees in Canada; about 9,415 refugees who have arrived in the country have done so through these private sponsorships through which they receive certain care, accommodation, assistance in their resettlement process and due social support during the first twelve months to be properly integrated into society to become independent. One of the greatest disadvantages of private sponsorship is the risk and great danger to those who receive assistance from them, since it is not a government-funded program, it can lead to trafficking in persons or other types of abuse. This is why Canada's Ministry of Immigration has a duty to ensure that these sponsorships are safe and reliable, for which they carefully investigate the actions of each person who forms part of these auspices and all individuals who have been convicted of serious criminal offenses, those who have not complied with other sponsorship or with court-ordered child support payments or persons who have been incarcerated and are at high risk of losing their citizenship are excluded from the program, thereby providing security and tranquility to all refugees who wish to enter the country by this private means.

The integration service is one of the focal points within the benefits that the refugees receive when they arrive in the country, since they are people who flee their country of origin for various reasons, often lacking the necessary resources such as, the government of Canada is working hard with a broad network of partners and stakeholders to provide the Syrian refugees with an extensive and diverse list of settlement services that directly support the integration and successful placement of all these people as it has been achieved to date. The Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizens of Canada carries out simultaneous work with provinces, organizations or certain interested parties in order to provide refugees certain services upon arrival, which will be detailed as follows:

- Assessment and referral services to increase awareness of their settlement needs in their new communities.
- Information and guidance services for a clearer and more efficient understanding of the Canadian life system so that informed decisions can be made, including

guidance issued by the International Organization for Migration prior to the arrival of refugees in the country.

- The teaching of the official languages of Canada such as English and French so that refugees can have the linguistic skills and thus can develop normally within the country.
- Employment services for newcomers to obtain and retain employment in regulated and non-regulated professions.
- Connecting services to enable newcomers to receive assistance in public institutions and to participate actively in Canadian society.
- Support and social assistance services to enable refugees to access services such as childcare, transport assistance, translation and interpretation, provisions for persons with disabilities as well as appropriate counseling to deal with settlement problems (UNHCR).

It is important to mention that the previous government preceded by Harper had eliminated certain fundamental services to refugees, including their health, defending in court their right to “not pay all the health care of these people anymore which meant a supposedly unnecessary expense to the State” (RCI). Later, with the entry into power of the new liberal government, these measures have been modified, since they have considered the health of all refugees as well as family reunification within the country as a priority before budgetary considerations, which is why all efforts have been invested to deliver as soon as possible permanent residence to both wives and husbands with the firm aim of families remaining united and their integration into Canada considerably facilitated and able to have the full capacity to work and strengthen in the best way in the communities where they are relocated (RCI). While these resettlement programs and services provided to refugees are a key part of the “#WelcomeRefugees” plan because they have become the basic pillars of Canada's humanitarian policy, they pose a major challenge for citizens in general that is the proper integration and acceptance in a new society; in some cases, several families made up of six or even thirteen people who have arrived in the country have encountered great economic difficulties that have prevented their integration from being successful, as neither the governmental assistance received has been sufficient due to the large number of family members.

However, despite the few difficulties that have arisen during this process, the results have been highly satisfactory for Syrians since these protection and assistance programs have been able to help the most vulnerable through conceived security. Through these services, the integration of Syrian citizens into Canadian society has proved effective, as refugees have been able to gradually build new dreams and hopes to fulfill and in turn have contributed to the generation of an increasingly rich society and thrives for all (UNHCR).

3.4 Positions of Other States Facing this Phenomenon:



Image No. 13: Elaborated by "RT" (2013).

<https://actualidad.rt.com/actualidad/view/104300-latinoamerica-rechaza-intervencion-extranjera-siria>

The phenomenon of refugees has been a problem that has been present within the international community for several years, but in recent times it has managed to reach enormous proportions around the world. According to the most recent UNHCR statistics, about 66 million people are in exile for some years for economic or other personal reasons, which have driven them to these people to abandon their homes in a premeditated way to start a new life in another place. On the other hand, when war or civil disturbances devastate a community, people are in the urgent need to move or simply to migrate to new destinations with the aim of protecting and safeguarding their lives and those of their families, which is why in these more extreme situations, they have the option of dying from deprivation, from aggression or from their own genocide, or from going to another country to live in exile, with or without the possibility of returning to their country of origin. The

United Nations through UNHCR has for a long time invested its greatest and most effective efforts towards these people, considered to be refugees or displaced persons, by providing them with the opportunity for a new beginning in a safe and dignified place for them. All other States around the world take an active part in this process of cooperation and solidarity with all refugees, trained to open their borders and allow the entry of these vulnerable and unprotected people (United Nations).

3.4.1 Syria Case:



Image No. 14: Elaborated by Pablo Jofré Leal (2016), "siren calls for a truce misleading - Syria".

<http://www.resumenlatinoamericano.org/2016/03/04/siria-cantos-de-sirena-para-una-tregua-enganosa/>

The alarming and worrying situation in Syria is a wake-up call for the entire international community because of the great importance this country has for peace in the Middle East; as mentioned previously, the war unleashed in Syria a few years ago has had as a background a mixture of several political, economic but mainly religious motives, since being a country with a high cultural diversity. This has made its ethnic distribution lead to the tensions and disturbances that have occurred in recent times and considering this conflict, as a strong threat to the preservation of peace and security not only in the region but worldwide, the other States have spoken about this through different mechanisms and

maintaining a firm stance against this phenomenon. In general terms, we can summarize that Syria has had strong and important allies throughout the conflict, which, in addition to being against military intervention within the territory, have consistently supported the country in a number of ways, such as the specific case of Turkey and Lebanon countries that have opened their borders in solidarity to undertake the arduous task of receiving a large number of Syrian refugees and displaced persons, these being the countries with the largest number of receptions; another similar case is that of Iran, who has become Syria's main ally in the region long before the conflict began because of similar ideologies and interests and currently plays a preponderant role in any possibility of intervention within Syria. One of the most important supports Syria and its President Bashar al-Assad have had is Russia, which has clearly emphasized the need to find a political and peaceful solution to the crisis, strongly criticizing any possibility of a Western attack on Syria and claiming that actions that are taken and implemented outside the Security Council threaten to have "catastrophic consequences for other countries in the Middle East and North Africa" (BBC). Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich also called on the international community to show "prudence" in the face of the Syrian crisis and to respect international law above all else, in order to avoid the emergence of any more serious conflict, alluding to the following words: "Any attempt not to obey a Security Council mandate and, once again, to create certain artificial and unwarranted excuses to intervene militarily in the region entail new suffering in Syria and subsequently catastrophic consequences for other countries nearby" (BBC). Among the Syrian allies is China, which has joined Russia in blocking resolutions against Syria in the United Nations Security Council, criticizing possible options for attacking Syrian territory.

The most serious act committed during this conflict within the international community is the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian army, an action which is completely prohibited by international law, which has given rise to countries such as the United States, together with France and the United Kingdom, claim to need a military counter-attack on Syrian territory as a punitive response to the use of chemical weapons; to this, the official Chinese news agency Xinhua noted that the Western powers and other allies are jumping to conclusions about who might have made use of such chemical weapons in Syria, indicating that they should wait until the United Nations inspectors, who at the end of the

investigation, issue a sentence against the event occurred. The United Nations, through its Security Council, has issued a resolution not to attack Syrian territory, a measure that the United States and its aforementioned allies would reject because they state that the situation is an intense humanitarian need (BBC). On the other hand, it is important to mention that most Latin American governments are concerned about the strong tension around Syria and firmly reject foreign interference in the Arab country that are made in contravention of international laws. In addition, as a solidarity and humanitarian response to this conflict that has resulted in a massive refugee crisis, certain Latin American countries have opened their borders to receive a large number of Syrian refugees by providing them with protection and security, as is the case of Brazil to be the country that has made the most changes in its migration policies to receive Syrian refugees, who can work, access health as well as education, while their roles receive the authorization and approval of refugee status. Cases like Argentina, Chile and Mexico are examples similar to those of Brazil, since they have given asylum to hundreds of refugees to reunite to the families and to allow the entrance of the Syrians without more complication. In the same way, there is the exceptional case of Uruguay, which, despite being a small country in South America, is one of the States that has made the greatest mobilization and awareness campaigns on the migratory issue of the Syrians, today they have been able to house thousands of them (PE). On the contrary, the Gulf countries, considered as the Arab oil powers, despite sharing a language and the Arabian Peninsula with Syria, have not received the refugees within their borders, since in addition to not having participated in the treaty of 1951 on refugees promoted by the United Nations, they fear that their systems and the privileges of princes and clerics (RM) will be destabilized in receiving them. In spite of this situation, it is meritorious to appreciate the important and valuable contribution that each State has made to this Syrian situation, since opening its borders and opening up millions of refugees is giving these vulnerable people the opportunity to recover their life and tranquility as well as to save many of them from death. The role of each nation within the international community is not only to ensure their own interests, but also to show solidarity with other States, since the human rights of each person is a duty that belongs to everyone in the world and we must watch over them and respect them as a first instance regardless of color, sex, religion, nationality or even worse

social level, since before God and international law we are all human beings with equal rights and obligations.

3.4.2 Position of Ecuador:



Ecuador is considered as a strong global reference regarding the reception of refugees, since in spite of being small in extent its migration policies have approved the opening of its borders to allow the entry of those people who by diverse situations outside their will Have had to leave their native lands; According to recent statistics, 95.14% of the refugees who have entered the country come from Colombia, where armed conflicts have been the main causes of this great mobilization. With the implementation of the so-called "Plan Colombia for Peace" promoted by the Colombian government in 2000, thousands of peasants have had to flee their homes because of constant clashes between the Colombian army and belligerent groups; Also due to the massive fumigations with glyphosate in large areas where not only coca or poppy crops existed but also legitimate crops that meant the economic support of thousands of families, causing hundreds of them to go out in search of a better life and Where they can protect themselves from the strong health conditions caused by the use of certain chemicals, causing the number of refugee applications to increase considerably in Ecuador. “According to data from the Deputy Minister of Human Mobility, until February this year, Ecuador has managed to receive 233,049 applications, of which in June granted refugee status to 60,329 people, 57,325 of whom are Colombian

nationals. The other percentage of nationalities that come to the Andean country comes from up to 70 nationalities, including Afghanistan, Iraq and even Syria, for which Ecuador has given a positive and solidary response to these people, since it has recognized their situation by giving them a series of rights and benefits equal to the Ecuadorian citizens themselves, as well as a residence document so that they can stay in the country” (Public News Agency of Ecuador and South America).

With respect to the Syrian conflict, President Rafael Correa reaffirmed Ecuador's pacifist vocation and the rejection of any interference, even more military, in the Syrian people; At the same time, emphasized that the situation in relation to Syria resembles that of Iraq a decade ago, reason why they should not have referees of any side but should the international law to solve this serious conflict in favor of not the powers involved, but of the much needed Syrian community (RT). Ecuador has received approximately 79 applications for asylum from Syrian citizens, since they have considered the country as a safe and feasible destination for the beginning of a new life; in the last years the country has faced a great challenge of modifying certain restrictive immigration policies by openings that offer assistance to all the applicants and their families, a fact that has generated the entrance of a greater number of refugees and the admiration by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), as he stressed his hard work in combating xenophobia and the inclusion of such persons in a new society with rights and benefits on equal terms with its own citizens. Although Ecuador has not been the most popular destination for Syrians due to many factors, including distance, language, among others, the few who have managed to enter the country have found emotional stability and security, reasons that have allowed them to continue with their lives and rebuild their future in a place full of hope and kind people who hope to continue welcoming more refugees around the world and serve as an example for other nations.

4. CONCLUSIONS:

The phenomenon of refugees together with migration has been problematic; despite the fact that it originated many years ago, it has become even stronger today as millions of people around the world have left their countries of origin to other places in search of a better life. In the Syrian case, the refugee crisis has been produced for economic, political, social and essentially religious reasons, becoming a constant threat to the preservation of peace and security not only in the region of the Syrian people but also in the world, as well as clear evidence of disrespect and violation of the fundamental human rights of these people. UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), have invested heavily in safeguarding the lives of these vulnerable people, and have been able to relocate them in safe and feasible places, for which some States within the international community have decided to openly and voluntarily open their borders to welcome the Syrian refugees as a sign of support.

Thus, Canada has been able to embark on a welcome plan for these people, with the firm objective of providing them with the necessary assistance and protection that they so badly need, demonstrating in turn their deep solidarity and humanitarian spirit characteristic of the Canadian people. One of the fundamental purposes of this “#WelcomeRefugees” plan is to restore respect and consideration for the fundamental human rights that are inherent to these people without any discrimination, taking into account that before the law, all people are equal in rights and obligations regardless of our origin or nationality. In addition, the Canadian government has been able to offer Syrian refugees a number of benefits since their arrival in the country, which has allowed them to develop and adapt normally to a new society, in which they have been able to reconstruct their dreams and hopes of a promising future and have regained their peace and happiness. This is why Canada has become an example to follow for other countries around the world, as it has exposed its deep concern and great responsibility with the international community and has been one of the nations that has contributed most to the Syrian conflict by opening its borders and allowing the entry of thousands of refugees, offering them the pleasant and valuable opportunity of a new tomorrow.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

As the refugee phenomenon is one of the issues of greatest concern within the international community, and given that in recent years the numbers of displaced persons have increased alarmingly, it is important that all States around the world consider it necessary and urgent Intervention to this event, which is why they should adopt opening positions and solidarity with these vulnerable people considered as refugees in order to provide them with the protection and due assistance and above all the full right and opportunity to safeguard their lives and that of their loved ones . It is for this reason that the United Nations (UN), as the maximum international organization, should encourage all the States that form it to work together in favor of refugees, by promoting conferences and programs that have as their fundamental objective to aid in teaching integrates towards these people.

On the other hand, at the local level, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), being the largest integration bloc in the Americas, should promote social integration in all its member states, constantly encouraging them to have a clear commitment to Refugees, through the opening of their borders; In addition, to have a strong economic strengthening should allocate certain monetary efforts to the solution of this conflict as a sign of support and fraternity. In the case of Ecuador, despite being a highly supportive country with refugees, they should undertake shelter plans for the Syrian refugees as a focal point of action, similar to those of Canada and Uruguay. In global terms, all countries should have the capacity and willingness to welcome these vulnerable people within their borders and thus to permanently apply the principle of cooperation and respect for the fundamental human rights of all people in the world.

On the other hand, at the local level, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), being the largest integration bloc in the Americas, should promote social integration in all its member states, constantly encouraging them to have a clear commitment to refugees, through the opening of their borders; in addition, to have a strong economic strengthening should allocate certain monetary efforts to the solution of this conflict as a sign of support and fraternity.

6. GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

A

Assistance: Action to provide relief, favor or help (SAR).

C

Canada: It is a sovereign country that is located in the extreme north of the North American subcontinent, where its capital is Ottawa and the most populated city is Toronto; Shares the border with the United States to the south, the northwest with its state of Alaska and extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the Pacific Ocean to the west and north to the Arctic Ocean, being the second largest country in the world after Russia (CIA).

D

Displaced: That because of wars, revolutions, famines, among others, a person leaves the place where he lives or habitually lives or where he comes from (RAE).

H

Human rights: Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, without distinction of nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other condition. We all have the same human rights, without any discrimination; These rights are interrelated, interdependent and indivisible, and being universal are often contemplated in the law and guaranteed by it, through treaties, customary international law, general principles and other sources of international law (OHCHR).

I

International Cooperation: International cooperation is a collaborative tool that supports development processes through the transfer of technical and financial resources among various actors of the international system (governments, territorial entities, civil society organizations, NGOs) (UROSARIO).

M

Migration: Geographical displacement of individuals or groups, usually for economic or social reasons (SAR).

P

Protection: Action to protect or prevent a person or thing from receiving harm or something that causes harm to it (RAE).

R

Reception: This term is used for those who have been given hospitality or shelter in a certain place (SAR).

Refugees: A refugee is a person who has left the country of his or her nationality and cannot return to that country because of a well-founded fear of persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion).

S

Syria: The official name is Syrian Arab Republic. It is located in Southwestern Asia, bordered on the north by Turkey, east by Iraq, south by Jordan and Palestine, and west by Lebanon and the Mediterranean Sea; has an area of 185,180 km and its capital and largest city is Damascus (Arab).

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8. ATTACHMENTS:

Interview with Canada's diplomatic corps in Colombia:

Dear Veronica,

The Ambassador forward your enquiry to me to reply to your four original questions. I hope this is of assistance.

1. What were the main reasons for Canada to undertake this Plan?

The ongoing conflict in Syria has triggered the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today. According to the United Nations, 13.5 million people inside Syria need urgent help, including 6.5 million who are internally displaced. It is estimated that well over 250,000 people have died in the conflict, with hundreds of thousands more wounded. Almost 4.6 million Syrians have sought refuge in the neighbouring countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. Thousands more have made the harrowing journey to Europe in search of a better life. Canada has given generously to the various international efforts to support the Syrian people, including those living as refugees in neighboring countries. To date, Canada has committed almost 1 billion in humanitarian, development and security assistance in response to the Syria crisis.

Prime Minister Trudeau was seized with meaningfully responding to this crisis and included a commitment to resettle 25,000 Syrian Refugees as quickly as possible as part of his electoral platform in October 2015.

2. What have been the results achieved in these ten months?

The Government of Canada resettled 25,000 Syrian refugees between November 2015 and February 29, 2016. This included government-supported and privately sponsored refugees. Between November 4, 2015 and October 30, 2016 Canada has resettled 33,723 Syrian refugees.

Additional data on Syrian Refugee Resettlement can be found at:

<http://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/ca243c40-a6d3-4a46-a578-b4fad4369df0>

3. What expectations have for the future on the host to Syrian refugees?

More information on the Government-Assisted Refugees Program is available at:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/gar/index.asp> and

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/resettle-gov.asp>

Information on the Private Sponsorship program is available at:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/index.asp>

In 2017, we will welcome one the highest numbers of refugees and protected persons in Canadian history. Though 2016 was an unprecedented year, planned admissions for resettled refugees in 2017 are double those in 2015 and preceding years. There will be substantially more privately sponsored refugees in particular, in comparison to recent years. This recognizes significant growth in the number of Canadians who have applied to sponsor refugees.

For 2017:

Government-Assisted 7,500

Blended Visa Office-Referral 1,500

Privately Sponsored 16,000

Total Resettled Refugees 25,000

4. What advice would you give to other States within the international community on the Syrian refugees?

On September 20, 2016 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum concluded a visit to New York, comprised of two days of meetings focused on the ever-growing global refugee and migrant crisis. While in New York, Minister McCallum participated in numerous events on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), including the High-Level Meeting on Refugees and Migrants where he delivered the plenary address for Canada. He also participated in a roundtable discussion on how nations can work together to address refugee crises around the world.

Minister McCallum then attended a private sector forum on migration and refugees, where he spoke of a newly formed joint initiative between Canada, the United Nations Refugee Agency and the Open Society Foundations, aimed at increasing the private sponsorship of refugees around the world. The new joint initiative will support two initial activities. First, it will create a series of training modules on private sponsorship, based principally on a careful analysis of the Canadian model and made available to other countries who are interested in private sponsorship. Second, it will build the capacity necessary to disseminate the training modules and offer tailored advice on how to adapt and implement private sponsorship programs.

I think you will find the attached link helpful:

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/9/57e0e2784/canada-unhcr-open-society-foundations-look-increase-refugee-resettlement.html>

Sincerely yours,

Counsellor (Immigration) | Conseiller (Immigration)

Immigration Program Manager | Gestionnaire du programme d'immigration

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