

## **Voices from the Cumbre of Omaha**

We have come to the end of two intensive but prolific days of work and engagement in this Fourth Cumbre of the Great Plains. Our rich analyses and policy proposals will inform the Fourth Global Social Forum on Migration and Development in Ecuador in October of 2010, as well as the Fourth Global Forum on Migration and Development in Mexico in November of the same year. As it has become a tradition in Cumbre, we have produced a comprehensive and propositional analysis of migration and human mobility which not only enriches our body of knowledge on these issues, but becomes a powerful instrument to strengthen our ties with those social movements, migrant organizations and other sectors of society seeking to build a better world for all of us.

The results that come out of this Cumbre will be reflected in a final document that will inform, not only the global forums on migration, development and human rights, but discussions about these issues that are taking place in Nebraska and across this country. The immigration debate has once again been placed at the top of the national and international agenda, thanks to the unfortunate events in Arizona.

We are obligated to take advantage of the rich dialogues that took place in this Cumbre 2010, in order to reframe the immigration issue through a different optic which focuses on the root causes of human mobility rather than on its effects as the starting point. This requires, first and foremost, that make fundamental changes in the designs of our public policies, removing them from the national security and enforcement agendas, where they have been trapped for a long time, and placing them in an alternative agenda of cooperation, development and full respect for the labor and human rights of migrants and their families.

We are open to hear the voices of others, and expect others to hear ours. The attempt to silence Senator Dora Aguirre from Ecuador serves as a final reminder that we must enlighten the debate and oppose all attempts of censorship as well as the construction of all walls that divide us. We, academics, migrant organizations, and all members of the civil and political society, will continue to work to make sure that ALL our voices are heard. I give you Senator Dora Aguirre.