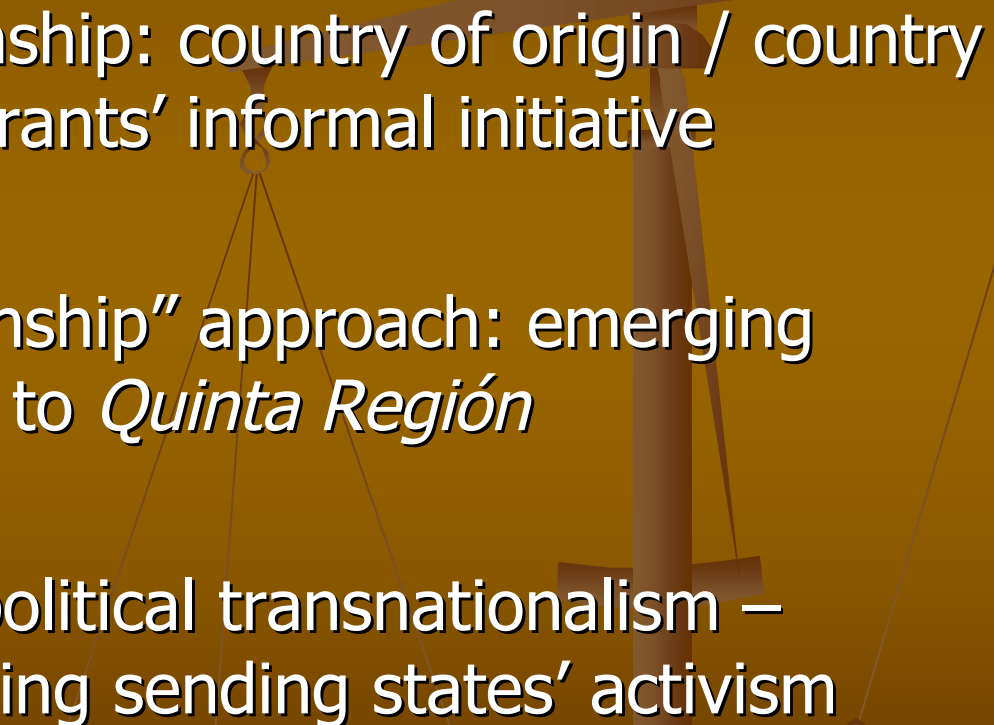


Migrants' social protection as a multi-actor process

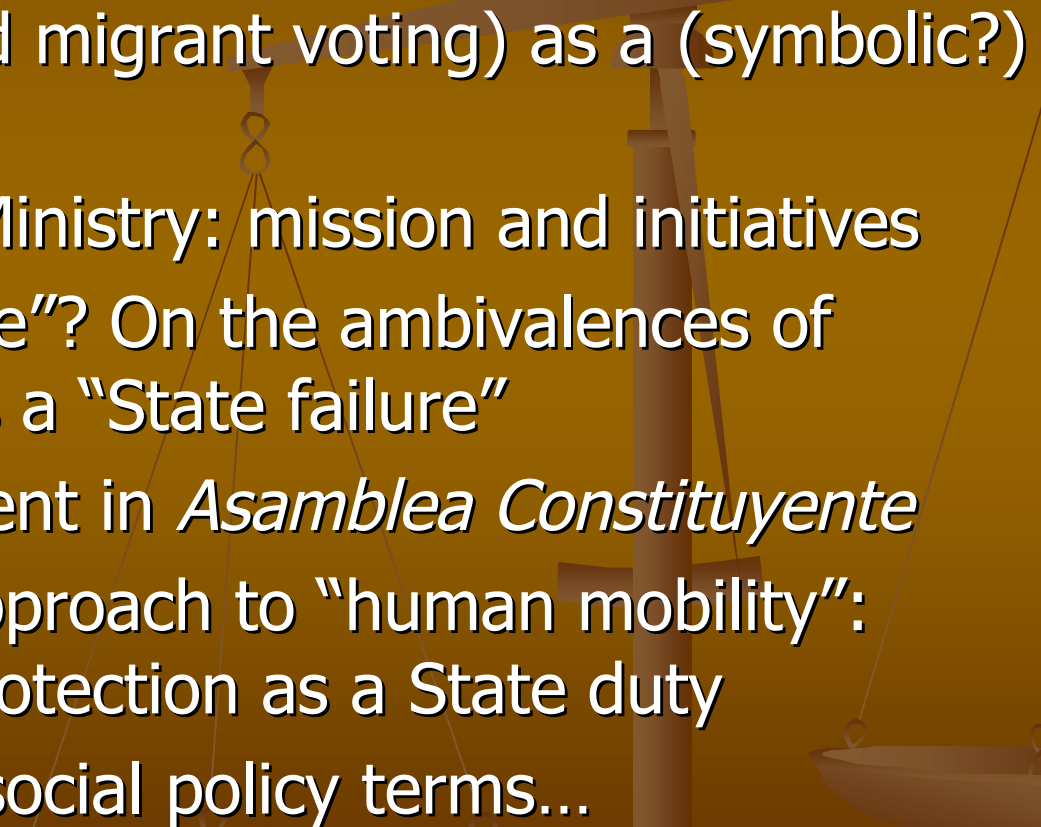
public policies and emigrants' initiatives
in the case of Ecuador

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Migrants' social protection: the viewpoint of a sending state

- A “triangle” relationship: country of origin / country of settlement / migrants' informal initiative
 - An “emigrant citizenship” approach: emerging Ecuadorian policies to *Quinta Región*
 - As a background: political transnationalism – grounds for increasing sending states' activism
- 

Emigration policy-building in Ecuador: an evolving scenario

- 2006's elections (and migrant voting) as a (symbolic?) turning point
 - A special Migration Ministry: mission and initiatives
 - "Welcome back home"? On the ambivalences of framing migration as a "State failure"
 - Emigrants' involvement in *Asamblea Constituyente*
 - A groundbreaking approach to "human mobility": Expatriates' social protection as a State duty
 - However, in strictly social policy terms...
- 


If a Constitution were a fact...

Art. 40 – Every person is acknowledged the right to migrate. No human being shall be identified, nor regarded as illegal, as a result of their migratory conditions.

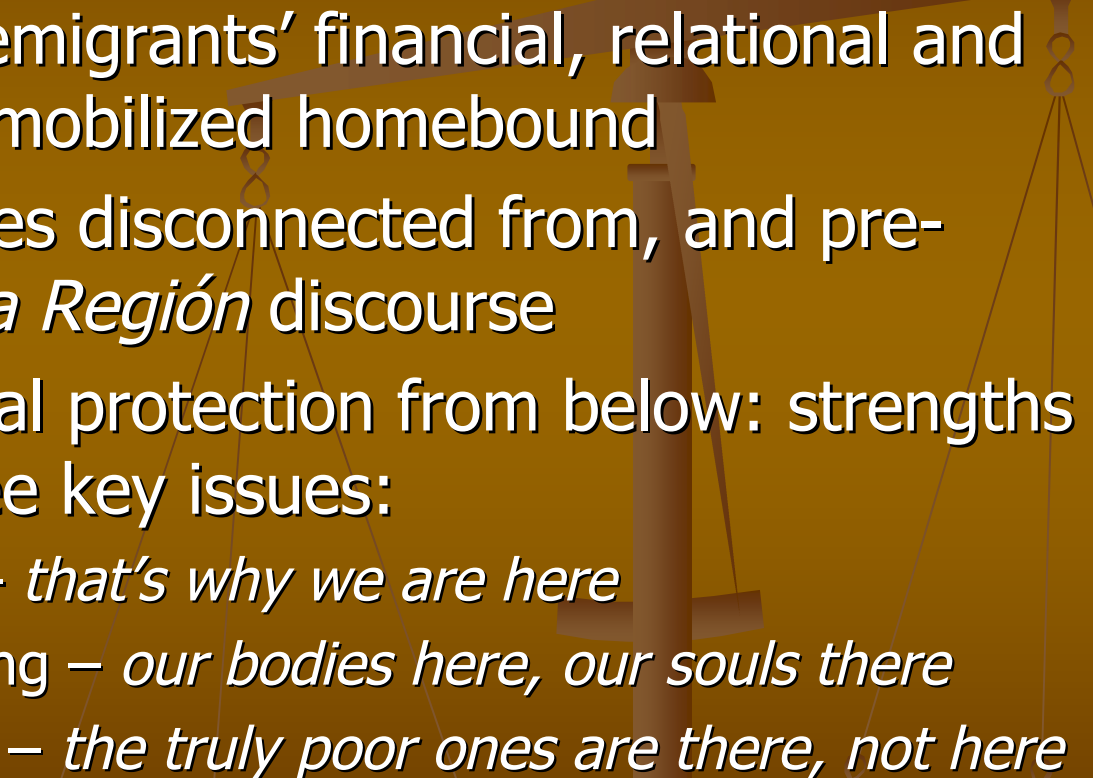
The State, through its dedicated institutions, shall develop the following actions – among others – for Ecuadorian persons' rights to be exercised overseas, whatever their migratory conditions:

1. Shall provide assistance to them and their families, whether residing overseas or in the country.
2. Shall provide attention, counseling services and thorough protection, for them to be able to exercise freely their rights.
3. Shall protect their rights if, for whatever reason, they are deprived of their freedom overseas.
4. Shall promote their ties with Ecuador, facilitate family reunion and stimulate return on a voluntary basis.
5. Shall safeguard the privacy of their personal information within the archives of Ecuador institutions overseas.
6. Shall protect transnational families and their members' rights

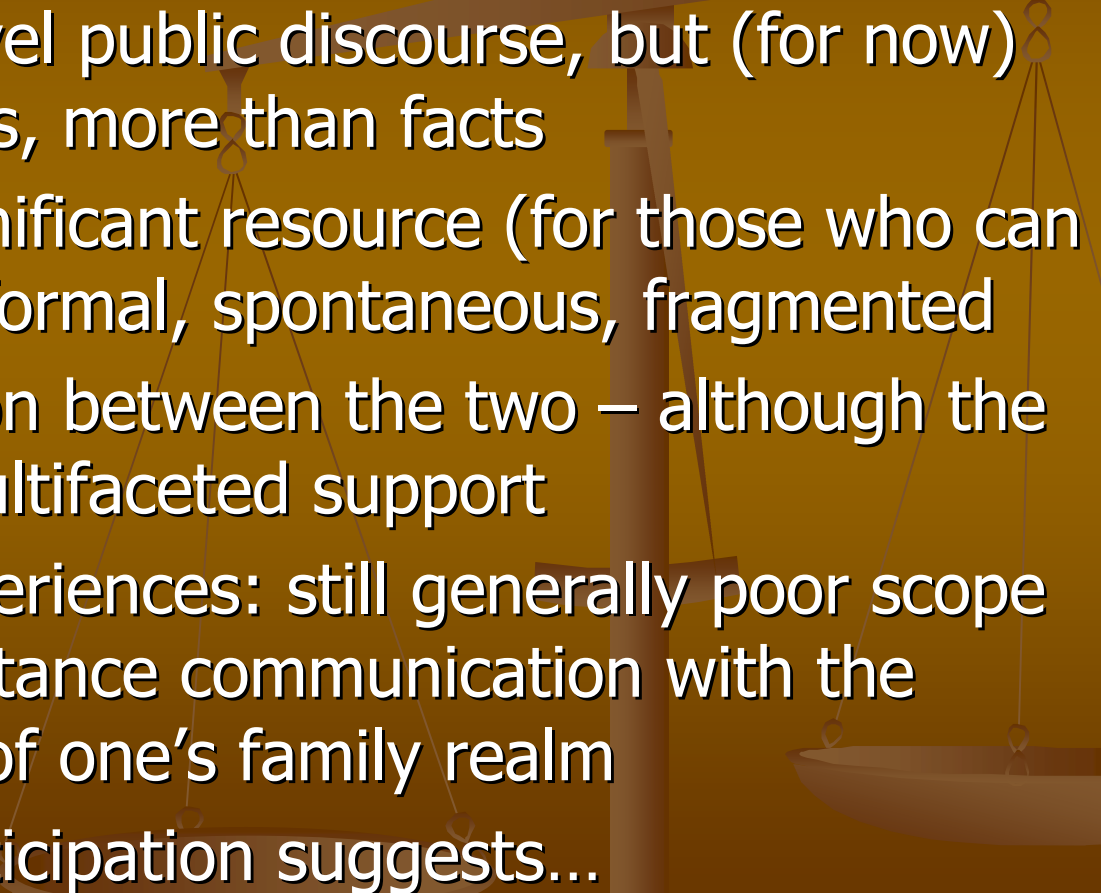
How could Ecuador protect its citizens overseas?

- De-stigmatizing the public discourse on migration
 - Cultivating affections, patriotism, communication at distance
 - Stimulating remittances and their investments
 - Promoting advocacy to receiving countries
 - Providing social and legal support in receiving countries
 - ... *Can these top-down initiatives rely on emigrants' support?*
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Social protection while overseas: migrants' own practices and resources

- On the relevance of emigrants' financial, relational and emotional resources mobilized homebound
 - Transnational practices disconnected from, and pre-existent to the *Quinta Región* discourse
 - Migrants' transnational protection from below: strengths and limitations – three key issues:
 - (family) remittances – *that's why we are here*
 - transnational caregiving – *our bodies here, our souls there*
 - collective remittances – *the truly poor ones are there, not here*
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Emigrants' social protection in Ecuador: a multi-actor task?

- SP from above: a novel public discourse, but (for now) declarations of intents, more than facts
 - SP from below: a significant resource (for those who can rely on it), though informal, spontaneous, fragmented
 - A still weak connection between the two – although the need is clear for a multifaceted support
 - In emigrants' life experiences: still generally poor scope (and grounds) for distance communication with the mother country, out of one's family realm
 - As their electoral participation suggests...
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Summing up: migrants still getting the lion share

- The construction of “transnational citizenship” from Ecuador: a partial and uncertain process, contingent on different expectations and interests
- Emigrants’ own mutual helping practices: a form of social protection depending on living overseas
- A significant role of the country of origin in terms of public recognition and human rights claims, but the levers of emigrants’ SP are overseas...
- Fuelling expatriates’ symbolic-emotional connection homebound: a novel source of “soft” social protection?
- In “hard” SP terms, it is still only living overseas the key variable at stake (as an opportunity *and vulnerability* multiplier)