



**XXIV REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION**  
**“Relaunch of the Regional Conference on Migration as a Consultative Process in Light of the Current Migration Dynamics”**

The Vice Ministers and heads of delegations of the Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States gathered during the XXIV Vice-Ministerial Meeting held on 13-14 November 2019 in Guatemala City to address “the Relaunch of the Regional Conference on Migration as a Consultative Process in Light of the Current Migration Dynamics” have approved the following declaration:

CONSIDERING that, twenty-four years after its establishment, within the framework of the XXII and XXIII meetings of the RCM, the Vice-Ministers determined to initiate an evaluation process with the aim of relaunching this multilateral forum, renewing its mandate and guiding principles so it responds to the current realities and challenges the region faces in migration matters, and can be responsive to emerging, unforeseen situations in the future;

RECOGNIZING the willingness of the Governments of the Member Countries to collectively and individually adopt actions, guidelines, communiqués and declarations that have forged important results to strengthen migration governance in the region;

RECALLING that the relaunch of the RCM will be oriented to the strengthening and consolidation of the Conference as a first instance for political dialogue on migration issues, coordination and joint actions that contribute to an effective migration governance in all its dimensions, with full respect for the sovereignty of Member Countries and as a cross-cutting axis for the protection of human rights;

REAFFIRMING that strengthening the RCM will consider the issues of interest, current migration dynamics and perspectives of all the Member Countries that comprise it;

RECALLING that during the XXI, XXII, and XXIII meetings of the RCM, the Vice-Ministers recognized that efforts pursued within the RCM should be in consonance with the decisions and actions taking place, as appropriate, in the framework of other processes;

RECOGNIZING that it is necessary to update joint work mechanisms with Observer Bodies and International Organizations and the Regional Network of Civil Society Organizations for Migration -RNCOM-, so that they are aligned with the priorities of the RCM and may contribute to the expected transformations, outcomes and impact;



REAFFIRMING that it is important to upgrade and strengthen the RCM Technical Secretariat so it becomes not only the coordinating body that ensures monitoring and support for the Declarations of the Vice-Ministers, but also acts as a substantive, technical and strategic entity that contributes to the achievement of the transformational goals.

We recognize that the RCM is a legitimized space for dialogue, reflection and communication between authorities and for the creation of synergies with civil society and international organizations as key actors that participate and collaborate with this regional consultative process.

We reaffirm the principles stated in the Charter of the RCM, and based on the recommendations of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM) and the discussions held during the XXIV RCM, Vice Ministers and Heads of Delegations have agreed on the following

#### **DECISIONS:**

1. To thank Guatemala for leading the process to relaunch the RCM. In this regard, the following is agreed:
  - a. To approve the Charter and the Strategic Plan of the RCM 2019-2022;
  - b. To accept the provisional mandates recommended for each of the Working Groups, as recommended by the RCGM, which will be annexed to the Strategic Plan.
2. To thank the Observer Organizations for their presentation on the status of the migration flows in the region.
3. To thank the RCM Member Countries their openness to discuss the topics related to the current reality of migration, trends, priorities and challenges in the region.
4. To approve the document entitled “Lines of Action for the Mainstreaming of Migration in the 2030 Agenda”.<sup>1</sup>
5. To approve the implementation of the following activities and to invite the RCM Member Countries to actively participate in:
  - a. II Regional Congress on Women in the Context of Migration: “Women in Migration: Gender, Human Rights and Empowerment. Challenges and Perspectives”, to be

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<sup>1</sup> The United States recognizes the 2030 Agenda as a global framework for sustainable development that can help countries work toward global peace and prosperity. We applaud the call for shared responsibility, including national responsibility, in the 2030 Agenda and emphasize that all countries have a role to play in achieving its vision. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that each country must work toward implementation in accordance with its own national policies and priorities.



- held on 3-5 December in Costa Rica, with the support from IOM and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
- b. Workshop on Refugees and MIRPS, on date and place to be determined, with the support of UNHCR.
  - c. Workshop on Security: exchange of best practices to comprehensively counter migrant smuggling in the region, in April, in Costa Rica, with the support of IOM and UNODC.
  - d. Training Workshop on Public Policies and Migration Governance, in May, in Costa Rica, with the support of IOM.
  - e. Workshop on Migration and Health in the Americas, in May or June 2020, in Costa Rica, with the support of Canada and the United States and the technical assistance of ICRC, IOM, and UNODC.
  - f. II Migration Day, in September, in Costa Rica.
  - g. Virtual Diploma on Labor Migration offered by RNCOM and ILO.
  - h. Forum with the Private Sector on Labour Migration, on date and place to be determined, with the support from IOM and ILO.
  - i. Workshop on Return and Reintegration, in Mexico, on date to be determined, with the support of IOM.
6. To update the schedule of the RCM, as follows:
- a. Workshop “Best Interest Determination of Migrant and Refugee Boys, Girls and Adolescents” to be held during the first quarter of 2020 in Honduras, with the support of UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM and ILO.
  - b. RCM-SACM Plenary Session, during the first quarter of 2020, in Panama (to be confirmed):
    - i. To thank Panama and Canada for their support for the meeting.
    - ii. To request the RCM Technical Secretariat to coordinate the meeting with the Technical Secretariat of the SACM.
  - c. Meeting of the RCGM: week of 14-20 June, 2020, in Costa Rica.
  - d. Vice-Ministerial Meeting: week of 15-21 November, 2020, in Costa Rica.
7. To thank UNODC, ILO, ICRC, IOM, and UNICEF as observer organizations of the RCM for their strong support and participation in the XXIV RCM and to invite them to continue strengthening this consultative process.
8. To thank the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration (RNCOM) for its contributions and recommendations and to recognize the support from civil society in the management of migration.
9. To approve the budget of the RCM Technical Secretariat, detailed in the table included in Annex A.



- a. To encourage the RCM Member Countries to make their contributions to the budget of the RCM Technical Secretariat in a timely manner. Particularly, to invite the Member Countries with pending contributions to make them.
10. To thank the Coordinator of the RCM Technical Secretariat and his team for the work performed. They have collaborated with the success of the XXIV RCM in a responsible and diligent manner. In addition, to recognize the good work of the Coordinator and his technical team and to state that the results of their evaluations are satisfactory and outstanding.
11. To thank and express our support to the Government of Mexico for taking on the Presidency Pro-Témpore of the RCM in 2021.
12. To welcome the theme “Migration in action” adopted by Costa Rica during the RCM Presidency Pro-Témpore for 2020, reaffirming the support to the Government of Costa Rica during this period.
13. To thank the Government and the people of Guatemala for their hospitality and efforts related to the implementation of the XXIV Vice-Ministerial Meeting and to recognize the work performed during its term as President Pro-Témpore to strengthen the operative structure of the RCM and promote the joint efforts of the RCM Member Countries and this regional consultative process on migration to achieve an effective migration governance in the region.