



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration



XXIII RCM

15 November 2018

English translation of the Spanish original version

XXIII REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION (RCM) The Sustainable Development Goals Towards the Governance of Migration

The Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States met at the XXIII Vice-Ministerial Meeting in Panama City on 14-15 November 2018 to discuss the topic of “The Sustainable Development Goals Towards the Governance of Migration” and approved the following declaration:

We have recognized the importance of mainstreaming migration in the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have exchanged information about best practices and experiences of countries in the mainstreaming of migration in the national planning, as well as the main challenges related to migration incorporated in the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

We recognize the progress made by each country in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the governance of migration. This progress reflects the ongoing efforts in developing strategies for coordination and cooperation, at the national level and among the RCM Member Countries.

We note the relevance of the 2030 Agenda regarding the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, as well as the importance of promoting the effective implementation of measures and actions in favour of migrants and States.¹

Invoking the theme proposed by Honduras for the XXI RCM, we recognize the importance of shared responsibility in achieving SDG 10.7, “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” and of national and regional efforts aimed at

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promoting the management of migration in accordance with the principles set forth in the 2030 Agenda.

Reiterating the theme established by El Salvador for the XXII RCM, “Migrant Women”, we highlight SGD 5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, and Goal 8.8 “Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment.”

Considering the linkage between 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, we urge the following Pro-Tempore Presidencies and Member Countries to consider this link in the upcoming evaluation and relaunch activities of the Regional Conference on Migration, we underline the need to dynamize this consultative process so that it reaffirms itself as the space for dialogue and consensus on the most relevant migration issues in the region.

We reiterate the importance of the definition of joint strategies under a shared responsibility approach so that RCM, as a consultative process in migration matters, can carry out the activities demanded by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration for regional articulations.²

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 involved in and collaborating with this regional consultation process.

We have reaffirmed the principles established in the Puebla Process and, based on the recommendations of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM) and the discussions held during the XXIII RCM, the Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegation have agreed on the following:

DECISIONS

1. To thank Panama for its presentation on the Presidency Pro-Tempore central theme “Governance of migration towards the Global Compact and the 2030 Agenda” and Report by the PPT for the 2017-2018 period. Congratulate Panama for the work developed during its Presidency.

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2. To thank delegations of Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and the United States for their reports regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Migration and recognize progress in the region on this matter.
3. Related to the evaluation and relaunch of the RCM, to agree on the formation on a working team integrated by Guatemala, Panama, Canada, United States, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. The Presidency Pro-Tempore will prepare the relaunch document within one month for Vice-Ministerial approval, based on the proposals submitted by Panama and Canada.
 - a. Submit comments on the proposals by 28 November 2018.
 - b. Build a draft for distribution on 12 December to Member Countries.
 - c. To do a revision of the TS financial and technical situation to meet expectations on the RCM relaunch.
 - d. Convene a virtual meeting of Vice-Ministers at least the first week of January 2019.
4. In view of the Inter-Governmental Meeting to adopt the Global Compact for a Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco, to promote the participation of the RCM Member Countries at the highest level, as a sign of support for this milestone that represents an advance towards the governance of migration within the framework of the United Nations.³

Regarding the Global Compact for a Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to acknowledge the importance of implementation at a domestic level of RCM Member Countries, as appropriate to national capabilities and priorities.

At the regional level, move towards the definition of the specific role that this consultation process will have in the implementation, follow-up and revision of the Compact, based on the content set forth in paragraphs 47 and 50; as well as the results of the CRM review process. For this purpose:

- a. Conduct the exercise at a national level to prioritize the objectives of the Compact and send the results to the Technical Secretariat shortly after.
- b. Based on the inputs received, the PPT will identify consensus points for the region in order to make a joint position as a Consultation Process in Marrakesh.

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5. To thank the willingness to sincere dialogue related to the Zero Tolerance Plan and its effects on girls, boys and adolescents in the region. In this regard, take note on the concern of affected countries: Honduras and El Salvador, who emphasized the urgent need to ensure reunification of girls, boys and adolescents still separated.
6. To recognize that the extraordinary migration flows recorded from mid-October to date are unprecedented and atypical, requiring special attention from Governments to ensure respect for their human rights, provide humanitarian assistance, at the time of maintaining a safe, orderly and regular migration, in accordance with migration laws of each country.
 - a. To highlight the high-level dialogue and collaboration between El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico in order to continue to promote actions to respond prior to these extraordinary based on the principle of shared responsibility.
 - b. To invite the United States to integrate these dialogue and joint efforts.
7. To acknowledge the efforts made by the Governments and the civil society organized by El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico for the attention of these extraordinary flows.
8. Take note on the recommendation by Costa Rica to incorporate a working network on refugees and mixed flows and subject to analysis within the framework of the RCM relaunch.
9. To approve the following documents:
 - a. Guidelines on Assistance and Protection of Women in the Context of Migration;
 - b. Counter-Smuggling Work Plan of the Liaison Officer Network to Combat Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons of the Regional Conference on Migration
10. To approve the following activities and invite Member Countries to actively participate:
 - a. First Regional Congress: Women in Migration Contexts, to be held on December 17th- 19th 2018 in El Salvador with the support of IOM.
 - b. Second plenary meeting between the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) and the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) during the first semester of 2019. To request the TS to start the coordination with the PPT and SACM TS for holding this event. Panama offers to host the meeting pending consultation. Canada is exploring the possibility of co-funding.



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Regarding the other activities recommended by the RCGM, the agencies are requested to send the concept note for each workshop, including objectives, contents, methodology, profile of participants and facilitators, for the review of activities in compliance with the RCM work plan, as part of the relaunch.

11. To thank the young migrants for their participation as special guests to the XXIII RCM, to take note of their recommendations. In this regard, acknowledge the importance of present and future generations of our countries.

Irregular migration is multi-causal and the Member Countries are making efforts to address the structural problems that underlie it, but they also recognize that challenges still remain to respond to all the complexity surrounding the regional migration reality.

12. To welcome the theme adopted by Guatemala upon taking on the RCM Presidency Pro-Tempore for 2019, and to reiterate the support for the Government of Guatemala during its term as Presidency Pro-Tempore under the theme of "The relaunch of the Regional Conference on Migration as a consultation process against the current migration dynamics."
13. To thank ECLAC, IOM, UNHCR, ICRC, UNICEF, ILO and UNODC, as RCM Observer Organizations for their solid support and participation in the Conference and to invite them to continue strengthening the process.
 - a. Take note of the recommendations from the Observer Organizations of the RCM in view of the Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakesh, Morocco.⁴
14. To grant the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) the status of Observer Organization of the RCM, following the recommendation of the RCGM, and to urge UNODC to actively participate in the strengthening of the RCM, in accordance with the objectives established during the Tuxtla Summit.
15. To thank the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration (RNCOM) for its support and recommendations as well as acknowledge civil society in migration management.

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16. To thank the Regional Coalition against Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in persons for its presentation.
17. To approve the budget for the TS, included as Appendix A.
 - a. Retake the budget discussion within the framework of the relaunch of the RCM.
 - b. Encourage Member Countries to make their contributions to the RCM ST budget in time and form. Particularly, to invite countries that have not already done this to pay their pending contributions.
18. To thank the work done by the Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat and his team, who in a responsible and diligent manner, collaborated with the success of this Conference. Likewise, the good work carried out by the coordinator and the technical team is recognized; therefore, to give satisfactory and outstanding results of their evaluation.
19. To support and thank the Government of Costa Rica for taking on the role of RCM Presidency Pro Tempore for 2020.
20. To thank the Government and the people of Panama for their hospitality and efforts in organizing the XXIII Vice-Ministerial Meeting and to recognize the work of Panama during its term as the RCM Presidency Pro-Tempore to promote joint dialogue among States and the strengthening of this Regional Consultation Process on Migration.