

International Dialogue on Migration 2018
Inclusive and innovative partnerships for effective global governance of migration

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Panel 1: SDGs achievement: national and regional perspectives

Session: Partnering to achieve the migration-related Sustainable Development Goals

Dear members of the Panel:

- Moderator Marta Foresti, Executive Director, Overseas Development Institute
- Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka
- José Luis Jácome, Vice Minister of Human Mobility, Ecuador
- Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations in New York

As President Pro-Témpore of the Regional Conference on Migration, I would like to express my gratitude to IOM for the invitation to participate in the International Dialogue on Migration 2018, under the subject “Inclusive and innovative partnerships for effective global governance of migration” in the panel “SDGs achievement: national and regional perspectives.”

The Regional Conference on Migration has been consolidated as a regional consultation mechanism for the technical, political and integral approach to migration in the Central and North American region and the Dominican Republic. Although our forum is not binding, its recommendations and guidelines have been a reference for the 11 Member Countries in the policies they have developed for a responsible governance of migration, promoting and strengthening dialogue and international cooperation.

For Panama, as Presidency Pro-Tempore of the RCM, both the development of the Sustainable Development Goals related to migration, and the Global Compact for safe, regular and orderly migration, are transcendental processes to improve the governance of migrations at the world. Therefore, the discussions and cooperation that take place during the coming years and particularly during 2018 for the elaboration and development of the SDG process, and the Global Compact, are vital to define the future of migrations throughout the world.

Aware of this, Panama takes on the role of the Presidency of the RCM during 2018, proposing as a central theme for 2018: **Sustainable Development Goals: Towards the Governance of Migration.**

Based on this proposal, the Member Countries of the RCM will have the opportunity to continue exchanging information on best practices and experiences in migration matters and the main challenges related to the accomplishment of the aspects related to migration incorporated in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The main objective of Panama as Presidency-Pro T empore is to promote the improved management of migration through the mainstreaming and regionalization of the SDG's in the work of the RCM.

Likewise and with the aim to enhance alliances to achieve the SDGs related to migration, we are focused on:

- Consolidate RCM's efforts that have the greatest potential to improve migration governance at the regional level, particularly with regard to the following issues: migrant smuggling, extra-regional migrants, migrant boys, girls and adolescents and migrant women.
- Promote the exchange of information and experiences related to the link between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and migration governance.
- Facilitate the regionalization of the SDGs related to migration governance.
- Evaluate the possibility of regionalizing the use of indicators to measure migration governance in the region. For this, the use of the Migration Governance Indicators developed by the IOM is being valued.

For the purpose of the present dialogue, which aims to exchange good practices and experiences of successful inclusive partnerships at the local, national, regional and international levels, I would like to highlight the experience of the Regional Conference on Migration:

In its 22 years, the RCM has worked with multiple actors, in an inclusive and innovative way. The RCM is a forum for frank and honest discussion on regional migration issues with a view to achieving greater regional coordination and cooperation that allows for better migration governance.

In addition to providing a space for dialogue and the exchange of information between governments, a series of activities has been developed within the framework of this regional consultation process: cooperation projects, assistance projects for the return of women, migrant boys, girls and adolescents, training workshops and seminars on migration issues, as well as technical and institutional assistance to the migration authorities of the Member Countries of the RCM.

The RCM has established important alliances with observer organizations, both regionally and internationally, whose role is to support projects identified by governments, provide information on topics of interest, provide technical assistance and make recommendations in specific cases related to migration.

Among the organizations that accompany the work of the RCM are: IOM, ICRC, ILO, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, among others.

Likewise, since 1998 civil society actively participates in the CRM. The Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration, made up of several NGOs focused on the subject of migration, in order to strengthen dialogue and synergy with civil society. Civil society participates practically in all the spaces of the RCM, including seminars and workshops, as well as in the Regional Consultation Group on Migration, the main technical space of the RCM, and in the Vice-Ministerial Meeting, the main political space. I would like to highlight that the RCM is a regional consultation process that includes civil society in its structure. There is a tripartite operating mechanism, composed of the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration, the Presidency Pro-Témpore and the Technical Secretariat, to operationalize agreements and actions between civil society and the Member Countries.

In order to specify activities, documents and initiatives, the RCM develops alliances with governmental organizations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, academic sector and civil society organizations.

Throughout its history, the RCM has focused its work on three areas: Migration Policy and Management, Human Rights and Migration and Development.

In recent years, the RCM has strengthened its work on the most relevant issues for migration governance in the region, including: migrant women, migrant boys, girls and adolescents, extra-regional migration and return and reintegration. Regional working networks have been established to ensure the continuity and operability of addressing sensitive issues within the region. Likewise, in recent years, as part of the 2030 Agenda, the RCM has included as part of its work plan the issues of migration and health and migration and climate change.

The networks created at present are the following: the Network of Liaison Officers in the Area of Protection of Migrant Boys, Girls and Adolescents, which has formulated a Strategic Plan 2017-2022; the Consular Network that has been generating a repository of Good Practices to derive lessons learned from them, applicable to the socio-legal reality of each country and the Network to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Illicit Smuggling of Migrants.

The alliances with the different actors are key to follow up on the proposed objectives, under the fundamental principle of the 2030 Agenda that "no one is left behind". Based on this principle, the Panama Presidency seeks cooperation to implement actions in favor of migrants and the communities of the countries of origin, transit and destination. In this regard, it is very important that the Member Countries lead the execution of the initiatives, as well as implement appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

I would like to share with you that in the last Vice-Ministerial Meeting, the Member Countries of the RCM, with the exception of the United States, agreed to approve the "Special Declaration of the Regional Conference on Migration related to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration". Through this declaration, it was possible to articulate a common position to the countries of the region regarding the Global Compact. Also, highlight that the RCM, together with the South American Conference on Migration (SACM), as two of the most homologous regional consultation processes in the world, have made important approaches and common work for the exchange of information and good practices on the reality of migration in our American continent, for an administration of migratory flows in a responsible, safe, humanitarian, regular and orderly manner.

Finally, I would like to share with you that the Presidency Pro-Témpore of the RCM adopted a logo for this year, under the theme of the SDG for the governance of migration.

On the one hand, we have the birds, which are a symbol of migration. On the other hand, the American Continent and the colors of the SDGs. The combination of the three elements give rise to the logo of the Presidency of the RCM for 2018, whose theme as I mentioned earlier is Sustainable Development Goals: towards the Governance of Migration. This logo reflects the commitment of the RCM to achieve this mandate.

The countries of the region, aware of their responsibilities, know and have subscribed their support to the 2030 Agenda, for which the strengthening of migration governance and compliance with the SDGs are part of the common commitments of the Member Countries of the RCM. Panama is proud to preside over this commitment at the regional level. Thank you very much.