

**XIV REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION (RCM)
Guatemala City, Guatemala, 9-10 July 2009**

DECLARATION

The Fourteenth Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) was held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on July 9-10, 2009, with the participation of Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the United States of America.

The Vice-Ministers,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening the linkages between migration and development in the RCM, welcomed the Government of Guatemala's selection of "Migration and Development" as the theme for discussion at the XIV RCM.

Concurred that migration goals and policies must transcend the ever-changing economic context and consider the role of migration in the building of lasting foundations for the development of societies.

Recognized the contribution of each individual migrant to development, in terms of wealth of talent, ideas, and entrepreneurial drive to countries of origin, transit, and destination, and to the evolving social fabric.

Welcomed the announcement made by El Salvador to the effect that, in fulfillment of the mandate given by the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American Community in the XVIII San Salvador Summit on October 2008, it will host the Second Meeting of the Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (FIBEMYD) in 2010, with the support of SEGIB, IOM and ECLAC/CELADE.

Highlighted the role civil society plays in strengthening the linkages between Migration and Development and thanked the Regional Network of Civil Society Organizations on Migration (RNCOM) for their input and proposals in this regard.

Reaffirmed their commitment to facilitating orderly, prompt, and safe return of migrants, and in that context welcomed the signing of the three year extension, within the framework of the RCM, of the "Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the Republic of El Salvador, the Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of Honduras, the Republic of Nicaragua, and the United States of Mexico", and the establishment of its respective operational manual. The decision to adhere is left opened to the Republic of Honduras as referred to therein.

Condemned all forms of exploitation and abuse of unaccompanied migrant children, including trafficking in persons, acknowledged the importance of mitigating the risks they face due to their vulnerability while *en route* to other countries, and concurred that RCM member countries should apply complementary measures for the protection of this vulnerable population, as agreed at the XIII RCM.

As such, the Vice-Ministers made the following

DECISIONS

1. Approve the proposal made by the Government of Guatemala to hold a Seminar on Migration and Development. Agreed it should be held, preferably, in advance of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, to take place in Athens in November, 2009.
2. Accept the annual Financial and Activity Report for 2008-2009, presented before the RCGM and approve the RCM's 2010 budget contained within.
3. Approve the "Regional Guidelines for the Assistance to Unaccompanied Minors in Cases of Repatriation".
4. Request RNCOM to prepare for interested governments a diagnostic on the knowledge and understanding of migration regulations from the perspective of the migrant.
5. Approve Mexico's proposal to elaborate criteria for the participation of the PPT and the TS in events external to the RCM. Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, and the United States offered to work with Mexico on this draft, to be presented in the next RCGM meeting.
6. Took note of the proposal made by El Salvador to hold a workshop in this country on the findings and recommendations on the studies carried out by international organizations in the region in relation to the codification of laws related to human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
7. Approved the contract renewal of the Coordinator of the TS, Mr. Jorge Peraza Breedy, for a period to expire on June 30th, 2010.

The Vice-Ministers welcomed with pleasure and thanked the Government of the Dominican Republic for its generous offer to organize the XVI Regional Conference on Migration, to be held in 2011, following the XV RCM to be taking place in Mexico, on 2010.

Also, the Vice-Ministers appreciated the participation of Ecuador and Peru in their capacity as observer countries; Uruguay as special guest in its capacity as PPT of the South American Conference on Migration; and IOM, SEGIB, General Secretariat of SICA, UNFPA, UNHCR in their capacity as observer organization of the RCM; and RNCOM as representatives of civil society.

Finally, the Vice-Ministers expressed their profound gratitude towards the Government of Guatemala and its citizens for their hospitality and the excellent organization of the meetings of the XIV Regional Conference on Migration.