

**Meeting of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM) of the
Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)**

**Dominican Fiesta Hotel and Casino, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic,
16-17 November, 2011**

The Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM), at the meeting held 16-17 November, 2011 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, with the participation of representatives from Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States, adopted the following:

CONCLUSIONS

1. Thank the coordinator of the Technical Secretariat for the presentation of the Annual Activity and Financial report for the period January – September, 2011.

The breakdown of the proposal for a new budget format for 2013 was tabled. In this regard, the Technical Secretariat committed to sending each Member Country the proposal in order to receive input. Afterwards, the TS will prepare a budget proposal for consideration of the Vice-Ministers.

In this respect, Mexico invited Member Countries to pay their annual contributions in arrears which are estimated to be 16% of the annual budget. Furthermore, it expressed its position with respect to its budgetary restrictions which would impede supporting the proposed increase in contributions for 2013.

2. Regarding the matrix of indicators presented by Canada, it is requested that, in compliance with the Decisions of the Vice-Ministers, the TS include it as annex to the Santa Fe document, approved in La Romana, Dominican Republic.
3. The United States presented a concept note on the work flow and structure of the RCM and the RCGM meetings, and it was agreed by the Member Countries to offer input in order to prepare a proposal to strengthen the procedures related to organizing the RCM and RCGM meetings. This proposal will be considered in the next RCGM meeting.
4. Thank the International Labor Organization (ILO) for its presentation on the project “Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies in the corridors Nicaragua - Costa Rica – Panama and Haiti – Dominican Republic”.
5. Thank Mexico for its contribution on the Child Protection Officers (OPs) training in the RCM Member Countries and invited the countries to continue

participating. In that sense, El Salvador requested to continue expanding this program with the purpose of multiplying effects on their officers.

Take note with satisfaction of the offer from IOM and UNHCR to continue supporting the OPIs trainings.

6. The Technical Secretariat will send the Member Countries a document with proposed topics to be discussed in the Ad-Hoc Group, regarding the definition of a mechanism that facilitates cooperation between the RNCOM and the RCM.

The PPT requested an update on the membership of the Ad-Hoc Working Group. Canada, El Salvador, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Panama confirmed their participation. Each country committed to sending the TS by e-mail the names of their representatives in the working group.

7. Thank RNCOM for its progress report regarding cooperation between the Regional Network of Civic Organizations for Migration (RNCOM) and the RCM and their proposal to address topics of importance for the region.

Their proposal was focused on:

- Permanently expanding the RNCOM participation during the RCM working sessions and keeping, as of today, the 4 dialogue slots in the agenda with the Governments during the RCM and 3 dialogue slots during the Regional Consultation Group on Migration meetings.
- Advance compliance with Decision #10 of the Vice-Ministers adopted during the XVI RCM.

In this regard, Canada and Honduras proposed that the Ad-Hoc Group consider the proposals presented by RNCOM for the joint work. El Salvador reiterated the importance of the RNCOM continuing to be a part of the new Ad-Hoc group.

8. Thank the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the report on the progress of their projects in the RCM countries.
9. Thank the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for their presentation on protection of refugees in the region.

The UNHCR recognized the efforts of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic in strengthening their legislative framework for the protection of refugees.

10. Welcome and approve the reports of the Liaison Officer Networks for Consular Protection and to Combat Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons, including the modifications made during the plenary session;
11. Take note of the report of the PPT on the meeting between the Troikas of the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) and the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) on the topic of extra-continental migration flows in transit through the Americas, the focus of which was to share information and promote dialogue about this trend.

Regarding the proposal on information exchange between the Member Countries of the CRM and the SACM, it was agreed that the TS would collect input from the Member Countries to revise the new proposal that will be considered at the next RCGM meeting.

12. Thank Canada for the update regarding its legislation to penalize unscrupulous and fraudulent immigration consultants and its mechanisms to combat this practice.
13. The Ad-hoc Working Group to discuss, analyze and define objectives on the topic of extra-continental migration flows in the region, was formed with the participation of Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and the United States.

El Salvador proposed to hold a meeting on 2-3 February, 2012 in San Salvador, and the proposed agenda will be distributed by the TS. If the meeting cannot be held in San Salvador, Panama offers to hold the meeting on a date to be determined.

14. Thank Mexico for the presentation on progress regarding the establishment of a common technology platform for migration management between Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.
15. Thank IOM for its update regarding the Fund for the Assistance to Migrants in Highly Vulnerable Situations and cost analysis associated with a possible expansion on its use requested by the Dominican Republic. Canada requested that this type of report be available before the RCGM meeting. The United States requested the TS to circulate the updated version of the proposal for the Operation of the Fund requested by the Troika in 2009, for consideration of the Member Countries.
16. Thank Honduras for the presentation on Remittances, Migration, and Development as input to incorporate these topics into the work of the RCM and the inclusion of relevant information on the RCM website.

17. Take note of the report of the TS on the participation of the current and future PPT and the TS Coordinator in the Third Global Meeting of Presidents and Secretariats of Regional Consultation Processes (RCPs), held in Gaborone, Republic of Botswana, on October 25-26, 2011.

The proposal of the United States to finance the participation of the RCM TS Coordinator in the Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland on 1-2 December, 2011 was approved. This participation will enable the Coordinator to meet with his counterpart from the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) in order to become acquainted with the functioning of other processes.

18. Approve the draft agenda proposed by Costa Rica for the *Regional Seminar on Integration Policies for Migrants, Refugees and Returned Migrants* to be held 22-23 February, 2012 in San Jose, Costa Rica. Thank Canada for its offer to support this event.
19. Thank the PPT for the report on migration processes and security in the Dominican Republic, under the scope of the new Regulations for the General Migration Act.
20. The participating delegations recognized and thanked the commitment and efforts of the Dominican Republic in its tenure as the PPT of the CRM and welcomed Panama as the new Presidency.