

XVI REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION (RCM)
“Migration and Labor: Co-Responsibility among the States”

DECLARATION

The XVI Vice-Ministerial meeting of the Regional Conference on Migration was held in the city of Bayahibe, La Romana, Dominican Republic, June 9 and 10 2011, with the participation of Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegations from Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States.

The Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegation:

- Acknowledged the importance that the RCM renews its functions, considering that the migratory phenomenon is in constant evolution, making it necessary that mechanisms for dialogue adapt to the current situation.
- Recognizing the vulnerability of migrants in irregular conditions, especially with respect to transnational organized crime, reiterated their commitment adopted at the Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Organized Crime and Migrant Security held in Mexico, October 2010 to strengthen protection mechanisms for their nationals and develop preventive information campaigns about the risks and consequences associated with irregular migration.
- Recognized the need for joint actions to meet the protection and assistance needs of extra-continental migrants and refugees in Mexico and Central America.
- Stressed the importance of regional cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination to effectively combat illegal migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, as well as fraud and crimes committed by unscrupulous migration consultants. In that sense, agreed to continue working towards the effective implementation of the *United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children* and the *Protocol Against The Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against transnational Organized Crime*.
- Reiterated their interest in promoting actions that facilitate the process of full integration of migrants and refugees residing in countries of the region, given that social and labor integration are part of the process of compliance under the general framework of human rights subscribed to by all member countries.

- In recognition of the topic chosen by the Presidency Pro-Tempore for the XVI RCM, "Migration and Labor: Co-Responsibility among the States," stressed during their debates the importance of developing effective policies and programs to promote and to benefit from the regulation of temporary labor migration flows. Likewise, the importance of promoting strategic partnerships between Member States for the development of temporary worker programs that guarantee respect of their human and labor rights was stressed.

Supported the initiatives of the 41^o General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) held in San Salvador, El Salvador, 5-7 June, 2011 aimed at establishing a hemispheric strategy for citizen security, providing participatory spaces that allows addressing migration as part of that strategy.

Reaffirming the principles established in the Puebla Process, and based on the commitment adopted at the XV RCM held in the city of Tapachula, Mexico, 2010; to strengthen the collaboration mechanisms that allow for acting in a more efficient manner, the Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegations made the following decisions:

1. To approve the budget submitted by the Technical Secretariat (TS) for the year 2012.
2. To approve that the TS proceed with the acquisition of a Travel Insurance Plan for participants of RCM activities.
3. To approve that the TS proceed with the publication of the document on the XV years of the RCM, upon receipt of observations and input from Member Countries.
4. To create an ad hoc Working Group coordinated by El Salvador and Mexico and comprised of Member Countries that express interest to discuss, analyze and define objectives on the topic of extra-continental migration flows in the region.
5. To approve the linkage of the Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Persons with the RCM, with the participation of countries that express interest.
6. To utilize RCM's mechanisms for consultancy and decision-making to jointly define, the terms of reference and draft agenda for the meeting of the Troikas of the South American Conference on Migration (CSM) and the RCM.
7. To acknowledge the initiative led by Mexico with Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras to implement a common technological platform, and request that the TS analyze its compatibility with other projects of similar nature.

8. To approve the proposal on the Future of the RCM derived from the meeting held in Santa Fe, Mexico City, May 12 and 13, 2011, to be known as the Santa Fe Document. The matrix that Canada will send to the TS by July 30th for its distribution to Member Countries will be included as an annex.
9. To approve the initiative of Honduras to incorporate the theme Remittances, Migration and Development into the work of the RCM, starting with the inclusion of related information in the TS website.
10. To expand the cooperation between the RNCOM and the RCM to find solutions in the common agenda.
11. To approve holding the following events:
 - Regional Seminar on Integration Policies for Returning Persons, Migrants and Refugees, with collaboration from the IOM and the UNHCR, according to the proposal presented to the RCGM.
 - Regional Forum on policies based on studies carried out by the IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF, among others, on unaccompanied migrant children, with collaboration from interested international organizations.
12. To approve the update of the diagnosis of the migration situation in the region to define the new roles of the RCM.
13. To thank and congratulate Mr. Jorge Peraza Breedy for his work as coordinator of the Technical Secretariat, extend his contract for two months and initiate the process for selecting a new coordinator to facilitate transition.
14. To thank the participation of Ecuador and Peru as Observer Countries, the Government of Switzerland as Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and Chile and Spain as special guests.
15. To congratulate the IOM for its 60th anniversary and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the 60th anniversary of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 50th anniversary of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
16. To thank Panama for its offer to hold the XVII Regional Conference on Migration and congratulate it on its choice of theme, "Security in the Framework of Human Rights and Mixed Migration Flows."
17. To thank the government and the people of the Dominican Republic for their hospitality and the excellent coordination, effective and successful organization of the XVI Regional Conference on Migration.