

XIX REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION (RCM)

“For a Region Free of Trafficking in Persons”

DECLARATION

The XIX Vice-Ministerial Meeting of the Regional Conference on Migration, with the participation of Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegation from Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States of America, was held in Managua, Nicaragua, June 26 - 27, 2014.

The Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegation:

- Deliberated on the XIX Meeting of the RCM Theme “For a Region Free of Trafficking in Persons,” and shared the progress made on this topic in their countries, mainly the establishment of a legal framework for the protection of victims and the prosecution of traffickers of persons. Also, they agreed to work jointly as a region to continue the fight against this scourge by defining strategies and actions needed to address the challenges imposed by the new modalities of this crime.
- Acknowledged the urgency to address the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied migrant children, which is a challenge that requires a comprehensive regional response in terms of prevention, protection, return and reintegration. In order to prioritize actions on this matter, the Vice Ministers and Heads of Delegation adopted the Managua Extraordinary Declaration.
- Recognized the efforts and support of International Organizations and civil society to address migration challenges in the region, including trafficking in persons, protection and assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations, especially unaccompanied children.

Reaffirming the principles established in the Puebla Process, and based on the recommendations of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration and the deliberations of the XIX RCM, the Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegation reached the following:

DECISIONS

1. Adopt the Managua Extraordinary Declaration.
2. Entrust the Ad-Hoc Group on Migrant Children as outlined in the Guatemalan proposal for a Regional Mechanism for the Comprehensive Protection of Migrant and Refugee Boys, Girls and Adolescents, and composed of interested Member Countries, to meet within two months and draft a work plan in accordance with the RCGM's recommendations.
3. Approve the budget for 2015 presented by the Technical Secretariat.
4. Adopt the document titled "Guiding Principles for the Development of Migration Policies on Integration, Return and Reintegration of the Regional Conference on Migration," presented by Costa Rica. Each Member Country will adapt these Principles, as appropriate, to its national legislation and policies.
5. Approve the Manual for Secretariats and Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Central America and Mexico to Address Trafficking in Persons including the comments from Mexico.
6. Approve holding a "Regional Workshop on Temporary Protection Status and/or Humanitarian Visas in Situations of Disaster," in Costa Rica, tentatively scheduled for September 2014. The workshop will be funded by the Nansen Initiative - Initiative on the cross-border displacement of persons in situations of disaster.
7. Approve the workshop on "Unscrupulous Immigration Consultants," to be held in Guatemala City, on December 10-11, 2014, co-sponsored by Guatemala and Canada.
8. Approve holding a Regional Seminar "Capacity Building of Regional Authorities for the identification and prevention of Trafficking in Persons with the purpose of labor exploitation," co-sponsored by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling to be tentatively held in San Jose, Costa Rica, at a date to be determined.
9. Hold in abeyance the selection process for the TS Coordinator carried out by the Selection Committee in May and June 2014, and approve the extension, as an extraordinary measure, of the contract of Mr. Oliver Bush until July 2015.
10. Request IOM to develop a proposal for the selection and hiring process for the position of TS Coordinator, which will be distributed ahead of the next meeting of the RCGM for discussion and approval of all RCM Member Countries at that meeting.

11. Congratulate the Dominican Republic for its efforts on the implementation of its National Regularization Plan for Irregular Foreigners in the Dominican Republic.
12. Agree that Mexico will assume the RCM Presidency Pro-Témpore after Nicaragua and organize the XX Regional Conference on Migration in 2015.
13. Thank the participation of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and RNCOM.
14. Thank the Government and the people of Nicaragua for their generous hospitality and the excellent coordination for the effective and successful organization of the XIX Meeting of the RCM “For a Region Free of Trafficking in Persons.”