

PRINCIPLES

- To create a forum for frank and honest discussion on regional migration issues, leading to greater regional coordination and cooperation.
- Undertake regional efforts to protect the human rights of migrants and strengthen the integrity of each member state's immigration laws, borders, and national security as well as to strenght the links between migration and development.



Blv Rohrmoser, Sabana
Business Center, 7 floor. San
Jose, Costa Rica.



portal.rcmvs.org



Tel: (506) 2212-5327

Fax: (506) 2222-0590

Cel: (506) 8705-5493



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration

**REGIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON
MIGRATION**

BACKGROUND

The Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) is an inter-governmental regional migration forum in which countries with contrasting migration realities discuss migration issues of regional interest. Its primary objectives are the exchange of information, experiences and best practices, and overall consultation to promote regional cooperation on migration.

The RCM is one of the concrete results of the Tuxtla II Presidential Summit in February 1996, which accorded special significance to aspects of migration within the framework of economic and social development for the region.

The first meeting of the RCM took place in Puebla, Mexico, in March 1996. The purpose was to discuss in a constructive manner one of the most sensitive and complex social phenomena facing member countries.

MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

Member countries of the RCM are Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the United States. The observer countries are: Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica and Peru.

- Observer international and regional organizations are:
- IACHR
- IOM
- ECLAC/CELADE
- UNHCR
- OHCHR
- SICA
- UNFPA
- SEGIB
- ICRC
- UNICEF
- ILO
- UNDP

THE PROCESS

The decision-making body of the RCM is the annual meeting of Vice-Ministers (Foreign Affairs and Interior), who carry out their deliberations with full respect for the sovereignty of each member country. The decisions of Vice-Ministers are adopted, after plenary meetings, in a closed-door setting to facilitate informal and frank discussion. While non-binding, the Vice Ministers' decisions provide a framework for cooperation.

In 2001, Vice-Ministers decided to create a Technical Secretariat to assist the Presidency Pro-Tempore in managing the process, including the coordination of meetings and exchange of information. The Technical Secretariat is funded by member countries' contributions and is housed at the Regional Office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in San José, Costa Rica.

An important element of the RCM is the active participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) within the RCM meetings. The CSOs are also invited to participate in the RCM's seminars, workshops and other activities, when appropriate.

The Presidency Pro-Tempore is determined by consensus and rotates annually among member countries. The President Pro-Tempore is responsible for the organization of meetings and overall chairmanship of the process during this timeframe.

The Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM), the technical and operational body of the RCM, makes recommendations to the Vice-Ministers, as well as implements and monitors the actions decided by the Vice-Ministers.

