**XXI RCM**

**November 18, 2016**

**[English translation of the original Spanish text]**

**XXI REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION (RCM):**

**MIGRATION, A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

The Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) of Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States gathered at the XXI Vice-Ministerial Meeting held in the cities of Omoa and San Pedro Sula, Honduras, on November 17-18, 2016. The topic of “Migration, a Shared Responsibility” was the central theme of our discussions, and the following declaration was approved:

We discussed the central theme of the XXI Meeting of the RCM, “Migration, a Shared Responsibility” and recognize that the adequate management of migration is a commitment of all countries in the region, and that no country can overcome the challenges posed by migration management on its own, regardless of whether it is a country of origin, transit or destination.

We acknowledge the advancements of the principle of shared responsibility in migration management that we have achieved in our respective countries and at a regional level. These advances reflect our continuous efforts to benefit migrants and refugees by establishing strategies to promote cooperation at a national level and among RCM Member Countries through the establishment and strengthening of intersectoral, bilateral and multilateral alliances.

We agree to continue promoting safe, regular, and orderly migration within the region‎. We are certain that well managed migration offers significant economic, social, and cultural benefits for origin, transit, and destination countries. The Member Countries see with concern the xenophobic attitudes towards migrants that have emerged on a global basis, and agree to take measures to fight them, as well as to highlight the many benefits that orderly migration brings. Such efforts are stronger when RCM countries work together to develop and implement migration policies that reduce vulnerabilities to all migrants, regardless of status, while expanding options for additional legal paths for migration.

We reiterate our commitment to work together, as a region, in order to continue advancing actions which enable us to address the challenges involved in providing protection and assistance to migrants; recognizing the shared responsibility of States in ensuring and protecting the human rights of migrants; especially in light of the challenges posed by the changes in migration flows in the region, and particularly those involving boys, girls and adolescents, extra-regional migrants with irregular migration status, returned migrants and women, among others.

We recognize that shared responsibility can only become a reality through the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices as well as regional actions based on good faith, transparency, and trust among the parties. These are essential requirements for consolidating cooperation.

We recognize the importance of cooperation and shared responsibility in addressing migration, by including civil society as an essential partner in order to ensure the appropriate management of migration; especially the protection and promotion of the rights of migrants. In this regard, we reiterate our commitment to incorporate civil society into all actions of the RCM that are not reserved by the governments of the Member Countries. Civil society will be included in workshops and seminars of the RCM, in consultation procedures, and in the development of related documents of the RCM.

We continue to express our concern regarding the significant increase in the extra-regional migration flows. Without prejudice of the States’ right to regulate the entrance of foreigners to their territory, we make a call to origin, transit, and destination countries to work to limit the adverse impacts of their migration policies on third countries.

We underscore the need to include the private sector as an essential partner in our actions aimed at improving migration management; in particular in strategies for reintegration of returned migrants, prevention of irregular migration, migration regularization and promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers.

We recognizethe need for the efforts implemented within the framework of the RCM to be in line with the agreements and actions in frameworks of other processes. In particular, with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New York Declaration, the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, and the global compact on refugees. In this regard, we have highlighted the importance of reflecting the advances concerning shared responsibility achieved within the framework of these processes in the work of the RCM.

In addition, we recognize the work carried out within the framework of the RCM in the actions implemented in the context of the above-mentioned processes as well as other processes, such as the Central American Commission of Migration Directors (OCAM) and the South American Conference on Migration (SACM).

We reaffirm the principles established in the Puebla Process and, based on the Recommendations of the RCGM and the discussions held at the XXI RCM, the Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegations have agreed on the following:

**DECISIONS**

1. Adopt the *Compilation of RCM Current Practices and Procedures* developed by the RCM Technical Secretariat (TS).
2. Receive and take note of the *Activity and Financial Report* submitted by the TS.
3. Approve the budget of the TS for 2017 as per the table in annex A, including the adjustment to the wage of the support personnel of the TS, in the terms agreed by the Vice-Ministers during the Closed Door meeting.
4. Request the Presidency Pro-Témpore and the IOM to elaborate a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the execution and monitoring of the budget of the RCM and submit this proposal to consideration of the Member Countries for their approval.
5. Instruct the TS to produce quarterly financial reports to be sent to the Member Countries for the monitoring of the budget execution.
6. Urge RCM Member Countries to make their contributions to the budget of the TS of the RCM in a timely and appropriate manner; particularly those with pending contributions.
7. Integrate a committee of interested Member Countries to elaborate guidelines for the hiring and replacement process for the Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of the RCM; for which said committee should have its first virtual meeting no later than the first week of December 2016. Once these guidelines have been approved between the Member Countries, request the IOM, in coordination with the TS and the PPT, to immediately start the process of hiring of the TS Coordinator which should be concluded by March 2017.
8. Create the Liaison Officer Network for the Protection of Migrant Boys, Girls and Adolescents, and adopt the operating mechanism according to the recommendation of the RCGM.
9. Thank IOM, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for their support to establish the Liaison Officer Network for the Protection of Migrant Boys, Girls and Adolescents, and their willingness to support the activities that will be carried out within the framework of this network, without prejudice of the regular meetings agreed to be held during 2017. Furthermore, invite the Observer Organizations interested and the civil society to support the development of the Network´s work plan.
10. Approve the document entitled “Consular Protection Recommendations for Unaccompanied and Separated Migrant Boys, Girls and Adolescents and in Need of International Protection”, as recommended by the RCGM and to urge RCM Member Countries to implement it to the extent of their possibilities.
11. Approve the document entitled “Common Indicators for the Registration of Unaccompanied or Separated Migrant Boys, Girls and Adolescents in Consular Actions by Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration”, as recommended by the RCGM and urge RCM Member Countries to implement it to the extent of their possibilities.
12. Approve the document entitled “Regional Guidelines for the Comprehensive Protection of Boys, Girls and Adolescents in the Context of Migration”, as recommended by the RCGM and to urge RCM Member Countries to implement it to the extent of their possibilities.
13. Adopt the information campaign on migrant children and adolescents “InformArte en Movimiento”, developed by the IOM within the framework of the Mesoamerica Program; as well as to consider the campaign presented by RNCOM “Justicia para todos”.
14. Adopt the document entitled “Protection for Persons Moving Across Borders in the Context of Disasters: A Guide to Effective Practices for RCM Member Countries”, as recommended by the RCGM and urge RCM Member Countries to implement it to the extent of their possibilities.
15. Adopt the document entitled “Basic Guide for the Development of Public Policies on Reintegration of Returned Migrants”, presented by the IOM, as recommended by the RCGM and urge Member Countries to implement it to the extent possible.
16. Approve the Workshop on Passport Integrity, as recommended by the RCGM, and thank Canada and Mexico for their co-sponsorship of this event.
17. Approve the implementation of two regional training workshops in 2017 within the framework of the RCM, proposed and financed by the Platform on Disaster Displacement (formerly the Nansen Initiative), as recommended by the RCGM. Costa Rica offered to host one of these workshops.
18. Grant the International Labour Organisation (ILO) the status of observer organization of the RCM, as recommended by the RCGM and exhort ILO to actively participate in the strengthening of the RCM, and especially in actions concerning the promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers.
19. Approve the Workshop on Consular Protection for Migrant Workers, as recommended by the RCGM, and to request technical and financial support from ILO and IOM.
20. Approve the Workshop on Consular Management of Crisis and MICIC Guidelines, as recommended by the RCGM, and to thank Costa Rica and the United States for its financial support through the Mesoamerica Program implemented by the IOM.
21. Receive the outcomes from the Workshop on Migration and Health held in Costa Rica in September 2016, as recommended by the RCGM. It is agreed to permanently include this topic in the thematic axis of Human Rights of the RCGM. Regarding migration and health, the Member Countries commit to promote:

* The development of public health protocols for the comprehensive assistance to the mobile population.
* The sensitization and preparation of the public health personnel on the human rights of migrants.
* Access to comprehensive health services (medical, psychosocial, rehabilitation), particularly to victims of sexual violence with illnesses that threaten their life.

In this regard, to thank and note the willingness and offer of the ICRC to work with States on these outcomes, especially on the development of the above-mentioned protocols.

1. Consider the suggestions of “Meeting to Strengthen Dialogue and Cooperation between the RCM and Civil Society, Particularly Concerning the Reintegration of Migrants” held in Honduras in October 2016, as recommended by the RCGM. Furthermore, to establish a mechanism for the operationalization of the agreements and actions convened between civil society and the Member Countries, through a tripartite group comprised by the PPT, the RNCOM TS and the RCM TS. This group will build a work plan and monitoring and follow up mechanisms, including the identification of resources for its implementation.
2. Agree to start a mechanism for the exchange of information and early alert for the detection of extraordinary migration flows coming from other regions going to the RCM Member Countries. In addition, we have agreed to inform Member Countries of changes to norms and internal migration management procedures that may impact the rest of countries of the region. To this end, focal points have been designated with the mandate to efficiently initiate this exchange. Urge countries of the region to review their visa policies, in order to take into account the way these policies may impact Member Countries and invite them to work in a bilateral and multilateral way with the SACM Member Countries in order to accomplish this objective.
3. Take as reference, the proposals from the meetings of the Ad Hoc Group on Extra-regional Migrants, as recommended by the RCGM, and to approve the next meeting of this Ad Hoc Group, to be held in the first semester of 2017 with support from Mexico. Furthermore, thank and accept the proposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to contribute to the development of regional protocols, within the framework of the RCM to provide necessary technical support for the management of the places/shelters where these persons receive assistance.
4. Request the SACM TS to disseminate information to the SACM Member Countries, in collaboration with the TS of the RCM, about the actions implemented by the RCM concerning extra-regional migration, and to inform them about the interest of the RCM to continue cooperating with the SACM, within the framework of the acknowledgment of the principle of shared responsibility, to improve the management of extra-regional migration flows.
5. Recognize, within the context of shared responsibility, the need of regional cooperation to combat migrant smuggling and agree to initiate the information exchange and carry out joint actions to inhibit the activities of criminal groups committing this crime.
6. Agree on measures to fight the xenophobic attitudes that have risen globally towards migrants, as well as to highlight the multiple benefits of orderly migration.
7. Thank the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for its presentation “From the MDG to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A call to transformative action”.
8. Thank IOM and UNHCR for their presentations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and the Global Compact on Refugees.
9. Express our congratulations for the selection of Mexico as co-facilitator of the consultation and negotiation process of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; furthermore, express our interest in having the RCM and Member Countries actively participating in the preparatory conference on the subject, to take place in Mexico in 2017. In addition, we state our support for the IOM playing a key role in the negotiations of the Global Compact, and as Secretary General in the international conference in 2018, given its mandate and expertise as the world migration agency.

1. Thank UNHCR, ICRC, UNICEF, IOM and the Central American Integration System (SICA) as RCM Observer Organizations as well as the RNCOM, for their strong support and participation in the Conference. In addition, urge them to continue strengthening the process.
2. Thank the participation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) regarding the use of the campaign entitled “Migrant Smuggling: #DeadlyBusiness” and adopt it, with a regional scope, as a communication initiative in the framework of the RCM. #DeadlyBusiness was developed by UNODC in partnership with the Mexican government and with the funding of the European Union. UNODC offered to cover the expenses of adapting the existing materials of the campaign to the graphic identity of the RCM; as well as to financially co-sponsor a regional event to formalize its adoption. Furthermore, take note of the offer to support the workshop on passport integrity, co-sponsored by Mexico and Canada.
3. Welcome the topic presented by El Salvador (Migrant Women), while taking over the Presidency Pro-Tempore of the Regional Conference on Migration for the 2017 cycle, and reiterate our support to the Government of El Salvador during its Presidency.
4. Endorse the proposal of El Salvador to work on a proposal on acting guidelines for the protection of migrant women. To this end, support will be requested to IOM, UN Women, and other related organizations, in order to encourage a discussion and validation previous to the Vice-Ministerial Meeting 2017.
5. Approve the proposal of the new PPT of El Salvador to conduct a meeting of the Liaison Officer Network for the Protection of Migrant Boys, Girls and Adolescents during the first quarter of 2017, due to the urgency to attend the topic and the need to elaborate a work plan for this Network. Furthermore, welcome Honduras offering to host and sponsor the meeting.
6. Express our support and gratitude to the Government of Panama as the Presidency Pro-Témpore of the RCM for 2018.
7. Thank the Government and the people of Honduras for their hospitality and efforts for the implementation of this XXI Vice-Ministerial Meeting of the RCM, and to recognize the work carried out under the term of Honduras as President pro tempore to promote joint efforts between States and strengthen this Regional Consultation Process on Migration.
8. Congratulate all RCM Member Countries for their permanent commitment and participation during the 20 years of existence in the Conference, and recognize the valuable contributions that the RCM has done to achieve better migration governance in the region for the benefit of migrants, countries, and communities of origin, transit, destination and return of migrants.

**ANNEX A**

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| **Presupuesto de la ST para 2017 / TS Budget for 2017** | |
|  |  |
| *Personal / Staff* |  |
|  |  |
| Coordinador(a) / Coordinator | $78.840,00 |
| Especialista en tecnología de información / Information technology specialist | $47.947,20 |
| Asistente de Proyecto / Project Assistant | $25.294,50 |
| Otros gastos y reservas de personal / Other staff expenses and reserves | $56.297,30 |
| ***Subtotal*** | **$208.379,00** |
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| *Gastos operativos / Operating expenses* |  |
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| **Soporte para seminarios y reuniones (interpretación, equipo, etc.) / Support for seminars and meetings (interpretation, equipment, etc.)** | **$8.680,00** |
| *Equipo / Equipment* | *$0,00* |
| *Traducción escrita / Written translation* | *$3.500,00* |
| *Interpretación / Interpretation* | *$4.000,00* |
| *Gastos misceláneos / Miscelaneous expenses* | *$1.180,00* |
| Equipo y acceso a Internet / Equipment and Internet access | **$8.000,00** |
| **Gastos de oficina / Office expenses** | **$41.000,00** |
| *Renta y servicios de seguridad / Rental and security services* | *$31.000,00* |
| *Servicios Comunes / Common services* | *$3.300,00* |
| *Consumo de Suministros* | *$6.700,00* |
| Estudios e Investigación / Studies and research | **$1.000,00** |
| Documentos y traducción / Documents and translation | **$6.000,00** |
| Viajes y viáticos / Travel and per diem | **$22.441,00** |
| Gastos Misceláneos / Miscelaneous expenses | **$11.000,00** |
| ***Subtotal*** | **$98.121,00** |
| ***Total*** | **$306.500,00** |

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| **Table of contributions for the RCM TS** | |
| **starting 2017** | |
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| United States | $150,000.00 |
| Canada | $75,000.00 |
| Mexico | $37,500.00 |
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| Belize | $5,500.00 |
| Costa Rica | $5,500.00 |
| El Salvador | $5,500.00 |
| Guatemala | $5,500.00 |
| Honduras | $5,500.00 |
| Nicaragua | $5,500.00 |
| Panama | $5,500.00 |
| Dominican Republic | $5,500.00 |
|  |  |
| **Total** | **$306,500.00** |